

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS OF URBAN PREP ACADEMY

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 21, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today, I wish to congratulate the young men of the Urban Prep Charter Academy of Englewood class of 2010. As a result of the dedication these students have shown to their education, they have made a rousing achievement. The student body of this institution is 100 percent male, 100 percent African American, and 85 percent from low income families. Moreover, every single member of the Urban Prep Academy class of 2010 was admitted into a 4-year college or university. Together, these young men have earned nearly \$4 million in scholarships and grants. The achievement of these 107 individuals stands not only as a testament to their efforts, but also as evidence of the commitment of the educators who prepared them for college and who encouraged them to succeed. Too often, schools that have high percentages of minority students who are low-income make the news for failure. I am proud to recognize the achievement and success of these young men from Chicago.

I also wish to recognize the contributions made to the Chicago Community by Urban Prep Academies—the non-profit organization that operates the three Urban Prep schools in Englewood, East Garfield Park, and the South Shore. Urban Prep Academies was founded in 2002 by a group of African-American leaders from the Chicago civic, business, and education communities. Their efforts were organized by Tim King, whose vision for a school that prepares male urban youth for success in college serves as the foundation of the three Urban Prep Academies. The Englewood site was the Nation's first charter public high school for boys, and the class of 2010 is the first graduating class of the three academies. The success of Urban Prep has been highlighted in over 140 media outlets including the Chicago Tribune, the Washington Post, ABC News, and many others. The intuition can take much pride in the achievements of the class of 2010.

It is no secret that the American public education system is struggling with meeting the educational challenges facing minority men. Schools in low-income areas with large percentages of minority families are often plagued by underfunding and high dropout rates. Nationally, only 48 percent of black men graduate high school. In Chicago, the graduation rate for black men is only 30.8 percent. A 2006 study by the University of Chicago further revealed that only 2.5 percent of African American boys from Chicago Public Schools successfully graduate from a four-year institution. This is unacceptable. The Urban Prep Academy was designed to address this injustice. The Urban Prep Academy was designed

to focus on the needs of minority men, to provide them a high quality education, to support their educational success through mentors, and to create an educated citizenry that reflects the diversity of our nation. I rise today with this story of strength from the Urban Prep Academy, which provides an example of how to help minority men achieve. The achievements of the class of 2010 not only demonstrate the ability of African-American males, but they also stand as an inspiration to all the urban youth of America. I offer my hearty congratulations, and I wish the graduates much success as they begin their college careers.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 21, 2010*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 14, 2010, I missed rollcall vote No. 355 due to a flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 355, to pass House Resolution 1368, supporting the goals of National Dairy Month, a resolution of which I am a cosponsor.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 21, 2010*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcalls 368–375 on June 17. Had I been present I would have voted yes on each with the exception of rollcall 374. On rollcall 374, I would have voted no.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID  
DREIER'S MEMORIAL DAY AD-  
DRESS

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 21, 2010*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend to my colleagues' attention a recent public address by the gentleman from California, Mr. DREIER, on the occasion of Memorial Day. For the past five years, I have had the privilege of serving with Mr. DREIER on the House Democracy Partnership, a bipartisan commission established by the House of Representatives in 2005 that works to strengthen the capacity of legislatures in emerging and developing democracies around the world. Mr. DREIER was the commission's first chairman and now serves as its ranking Republican member. As

the current chairman, I have had the privilege of working closely with him as we have sought to support our fellow legislators and their staffs in countries ranging from Haiti and Peru to Indonesia and East Timor.

On this Memorial Day, Mr. DREIER reflected on the work of the House Democracy Partnership and the relationship between the sacrifices made by our nation's men and women in uniform and the cause of freedom around the world. I have included his eloquent remarks in their entirety below:

I have been privileged to stand here on several previous occasions, and have had the honor of getting to know many of you. Every year we come together on Memorial Day to remember the war dead and to honor their service. We are humbled by their sacrifice. But I believe we honor them fully not just in solemn remembrance, but in commemorating their legacy as well.

Their legacy, first and foremost, is our 221-year history as a nation that was founded in, and has prospered by, a commitment to liberty. We have faced many crises. But we have endured because the men and women of our armed forces have fought to defend the principles on which our country was built.

These principles are enduring because they are universal. Across all cultural and geographic boundaries, people want to live in liberty. Which is why the legacy of those we honor today is evidenced not just here at home, but in the many fledgling democracies around the world. Democratic governance is taking hold in places that previously knew only totalitarianism or military dictatorship, like Macedonia and Indonesia. Places that were plagued with violence and chaos, like Colombia and Liberia. Places that were controlled by a foreign power, like East Timor and Kosovo.

In some of these places, our military has played a direct role, such as the former Yugoslavia. But their greatest influence has been simply in defending the principles that offer the only path to lasting peace. We have seen throughout our history that wherever there is tyranny, there can be no real security. Wherever repression and poverty allow resentments and extremism to spread, violence will always follow. And because repression's greatest enemy is liberty, the violence that follows will always threaten our security and our interests.

In recognition of this fact, I had the privilege of founding a commission in the House of Representatives called the House Democracy Partnership. For the last five years, this commission has worked with a number of new and reemerging democracies, like those I named before, to provide support and assistance in their quest to solidify their democratic gains. As we engage with the popularly elected representatives of these countries, the legacy of our armed forces provides the context for this work. We act with the knowledge that their sacrifice is what has enabled the United States to serve as a model for the rest of the world, and the recognition that failure to see democracy take hold threatens our security.

Of the 15 countries with which the House Democracy Partnership is currently working, the stakes are highest in Afghanistan and Pakistan, ground zero for the struggle against violent extremism. Nearly 100,000 of

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