

has established a dynasty within the realms of Girls Field Hockey.

On behalf of the residents of the 25th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate the Marathon High School Girls Field Hockey team and their coach Karen Funk on their Class D New York State Girls Field Hockey Championship. With these remarks, I would like to recognize the following players and staff: Coach—Karen Funk, Scorekeeper—Jenelle Dayton, Alexandra Askew, Brooke Atwood, Nikki Billings, Amanda Bliss, Danielle Braman, Lauren Brooks, Nicole Dann, Danielle Dayton, Danielle Diaz, Heather Doran, Alissa French, Lisa Gilbert, Jamie Gofgosky, Jessica Gofgosky, Eileen Hoyt, Maranda Kinsman, Tiffany Marsh, Jolene Phillips, Allison Robertson, Jacki Rose, Shira Thomas, and Kaitlin Veninsky.

Congratulations to all.

A TRIBUTE TO LENFORD L. ROBINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lenford L. Robins, a leasing representative and a fine individual.

Currently the Founder and Chairman of Bridgeport Capital Resources Inc. Mr. Robins attended St. George College in the West Indies and subsequently worked as a law clerk in the Criminal Justice System, Sutton Street Court Division, Kingston, Jamaica, and immigrated to the United States in 1969 to further his studies. In the United States, he attended New York School of Dentistry and Brooklyn Community College, where he received his degree in Orthodontic Dentistry. He went on to invent the "Tooth Aligner," commonly known as the "Spring Retainer," which is used in all dental practices globally.

In 1973, Mr. Robins changed his career path and pursued corporate financing. He became a member of the "Elite Clout Club" of First Investor Investment Corporation, and joined Ford Motor Credit from 1976 to 1979, where he was trained as a representative. He has worked as a Leasing and Credit manager for Toyota Motor Credit, Honda, Volkswagen, and BMW, and has received several awards for his outstanding performance and contributions in the leasing industry.

Mr. Robins has also served as the Director of Leasing for Emar International and Reserve Lease Systems, as the President of Leasing Research International, and as the Director of International Markets for Blockwell Funding Corporation. He has also headed the International Division for GFI Business Capital. In each of these capacities, he has used his expertise to train others, and has been recognized and respected by his peers. As proof of his prominence, Mr. Robins has been interviewed on the Bill McCreary Report on Fox Channel 5 Television and CNBC Television, and has been written about in several newspapers and magazines. He is also the author of "The Advantages of Leasing."

I would like to commend to my colleagues' attention the many achievements of Mr. Lenford L. Robins, a true expert in equipment leasing.

ARTICLE BY GEOFF D. PORTER

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record a June 1 New York Times op-ed by Geoff D. Porter, a professor of Middle Eastern studies who expresses frustration at what he says is a slow and ineffective means by which the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been trying to recruit those proficient in Arabic. Since his insight as to the need for experts in the various dialects makes a compelling argument, I've also forwarded a copy of the article to FBI Director Robert Mueller.

I thank my friend, Professor David Randall Luce of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for bringing this article to my attention.

[From the New York Times, June 1, 2002]

LOST IN TRANSLATION AT THE F.B.I.

(By Geoff D. Porter)

In announcing his restructuring of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Robert S. Mueller III, its director, stressed the importance of upgrading the F.B.I.'s intelligence capabilities by recruiting "the right people with the right experience." If my own experience with the agency is any guide, that should include an urgent recruiting drive for people with the right Arabic language skills.

Less than a week after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, I responded to the F.B.I.'s calls for Arabic translators. I know of a half-dozen other Middle Eastern studies graduates who also applied—Ph.D.s who, like me, are proficient in one or more Arabic dialects, as well as in Modern Standard Arabic. Ultimately—dismayed by what seemed to us the agency's flawed understanding of what proficiency in Arabic means—none of us pursued our candidacies.

I applied less than a week after Sept. 11 but wasn't called for the four-and-a-half hour translation test until January. It wasn't until February that I sat for a four-hour interview and polygraph test. The F.B.I. was then to begin a six- to eight-month background check. At the earliest, I might have started translating more than a year after I applied.

The slow pace, however, wasn't the most unsettling characteristic of the process. There was something more worrisome: The F.B.I.'s Arabic translation test simply does not measure all the language skills needed for intelligence gathering focused on Arabic speakers.

The Arabic-language test—copyrighted in 1994 by the Defense Language Institute, according to the back of my exam booklet—was solely in Modern Standard Arabic, the Arabic most frequently studied at American universities. This is the form used for official speeches and in the news media in Arab countries—but almost never in conversation. It differs substantially from the spoken varieties of Arabic in vocabulary, syntax and idioms—enough so that a non-native speaker who learned only Modern Standard Arabic would not be able to understand Arabic speakers talking to one another.

The regional dialects also differ from one another—varying considerably from one end of the Arabic-speaking world (in Morocco) to the other (in Oman). The dialects are, for some Arabic speakers, mutually unintelligible. (Once, I mistakenly gave a Cairo taxi driver directions in Moroccan Arabic, and he responded: "Ich spreche kein Deutsch.")

These varieties of Arabic are the language of the market, the home and the street for

the world's 200 million Arabic speakers. Yet no colloquial Arabic, in any dialect, appeared anywhere on the F.B.I.'s Arabic translation test, which included a listening-comprehension section.

During my post-exam interview, I tried to offer some feedback about the test's failure to measure skills in everyday spoken Arabic, but the interviewer brusquely moved on to his next question. Nor was there a chance for me to name the two Arabic dialects in which I am proficient. The interview is scripted; there is no room for unscripted interaction. All the other Middle East studies applicants with whom I spoke said they, too, noticed the test's shortcoming but couldn't find an opening to comment on it.

As the F.B.I. reorganizes, it should improve its recruitment of Arabic translators by adding tests that measure fluency in one or more of these numerous Arabic dialects. Otherwise, its translators may be limited to reading Arabic newspapers or listening to Al Jazeera broadcasts. They may misunderstand wiretapped phone conversations or be unable to identify crucial information. Until the F.B.I. shows more willingness to listen to the experts it is trying to attract, it will not get the expertise it needs.

CONTINUATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to racial discrimination which continues to be a problem in America. Recently, in my home state of Mississippi, more specifically, Brandon, Mississippi, a couple was discriminated against while trying to buy a home. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keys, an African-American couple, were attempting to purchase a home in Brandon when they were harassed verbally by a neighborhood resident, Chris Hope. Hope threatened the safety of the Keys' children after asking them why did they want to stay in a white neighborhood.

Mr. Hope was later subpoenaed when the Department of Housing and Urban Development filed charges on behalf of the Keys, who filed a housing discrimination complaint. Mr. Hope was later ordered to pay \$146,000. Hope is to pay \$126,000 to the Keys for damages and \$8,140 to their real estate agent. He has to also pay \$11,000 in civil penalties.

Mr. Speaker, HUD released a statement saying that, "racial discrimination will not be tolerated". I strongly support that statement. Discrimination is too often overlooked because it is thought of as a topic of the past. This story reinforces my belief that racial discrimination still exist. We must respond accordingly to discrimination cases.

A familiar document that we know as The Declaration of Independence states that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Racial discrimination is not only a moral injustice but it is also a legal injustice.