

class warfare, we are on the side of working men and women.

RECOGNIZING THE IMAGEN
FOUNDATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the outstanding achievements of the Imagen Foundation. Since its establishment sixteen years ago through the leadership of Helen Hernandez, the Imagen Foundation has led the fight to increase career opportunities for Latinos and Latinas in the entertainment industry and transcend the stereotyped media roles Latinos have been pigeonholed into.

The Imagen Foundation has helped to positively influence the role of Latinos in the media. It is critical for our community to be accurately portrayed because of the influential power the media holds in forming public opinion. Unfortunately, our community is underrepresented and misrepresented throughout all major media networks. Reports show that only 4 percent of people on prime time TV are Latinos, and Latinos who hold more permanent roles only make up 2 percent of actors. It is important to expose the world to the reality that Latinos are also doctors, lawyers, business executives and Members of Congress, and refute the stereotypes perpetuated by the entertainment industry.

Through various tools such as education, mentorship opportunities and workshops, the Imagen Foundation has created openings for Latinos in the entertainment industry. I have had the privilege of attending several workshops and I have seen the incredible talent that exists in the Latino community. The Imagen Foundation has been an amazing force working to develop, showcase and honor the talent in our community. It is my privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Imagen Foundation.

Through groups such as the Imagen Foundation and people like Helen Hernandez, more doors are beginning to open for Latinos in the entertainment industry. While much has been accomplished, we cannot stop here. There is still much to be done and we need to continue to work together. Hispanics are a fundamental part of this nation's history, a significant part of our present, and will play a vital role in the future success of this country's collective prosperity. I know that this is just the beginning, but with institutions such as the Imagen Foundation, who are committed to fighting prejudices and are concerned with bringing truth and a cultural sensitivity to television and society, I look forward to the accomplishments that are yet to come.

HONORING JOHN RHYMES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher, I am happy to rise before you today

to recognize Mr. John Rhymes, who is retiring as Principal of Gundry Elementary School, in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Armed with a desire to teach, John Rhymes, a native of Hazlehurst, Mississippi, started his college career at Mississippi Valley State University, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in 1970. He later arrived in Michigan, where he earned a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Eastern Michigan University, and also studied Educational Leadership at Wayne State University in Detroit.

Moving to Flint 32 years ago with his new wife Lessie Odom Rhymes, John began his tenure with the Flint educational community as a teacher, Social Service field worker, Assistant Principal, and ultimately Principal. In addition to serving as Principal of Gundry Elementary, John is also Executive Director of the Sylvester Broome, Jr. Training Technology Center. At the Broome Center, he oversees the Amistad Academy After-School School, which offers young people classes in computers, public speaking, performing arts, and character development, among other things. To date, there have been 308 graduates of the Academy, with a long waiting list of students eager to be placed into the program.

John's commitment to education is matched only by his tremendous commitment to improving the community. He has been recognized many times for his work by such groups as the Flint Human Rights Commission, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and the City of Flint Youth Council, to name a few. As mentor and advisor for the Gamma Delta Kudos of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., John helps young men enhance leadership skills as well as self-esteem, and for many, serves as a strong, positive role model.

John's professional affiliations include the Congress of Flint Administrators, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Province Guide Right, and the National Guide Right Board. He is also a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church, where he has served as Youth Fellowship Director, Vacation Bible School Director, Sunday School Superintendent, and the church's Day Care Center's Board of Directors. Presently he is President of the Inspirational Voices Choir, Sunday School teacher and instructor, and Assistant Director of Christian Education.

Mr. Speaker, many of John Rhymes' students, as well as the various faculty members under his leadership, both past and present, have greatly benefited from his insight, as has the entire Flint community. He has always been a staunch fighter for education, for he believes that a strong educational background is the basis toward improving the quality of life. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating him on his retirement, and wishing him and his family, the best in their future endeavors.

DENTAL OFFICER RETENTION ACT:
TO AMEND TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE, TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION ON THE ABILITY OF QUALIFIED DENTAL OFFICERS IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PAY WHILE UNDERGOING DENTAL INTERNSHIP OR RESIDENCY TRAINING

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the Dental Office Retention Act, a bill to allow dental officers in military service to receive additional special pay while undergoing an internship or residency.

Aspiring dentists leave medical school owing hundreds of thousands of dollars, often substantially more than \$100,000. Shouldering this burden places a large financial strain on these men and women. The loss of additional special pay during their dental training program further aggravates this problem at a time when these dentists can least afford it.

Dental officers with 3–10 years of service lose \$6,000 in additional specialty pay. Dental officers with more than 10 years of service lose \$15,000. Military dentists face further incentives to leave the service. This is because they receive salaries 30–50 percent lower than their civilian counterparts. We should not be cutting compensation to our military dentists when they need it most.

There are 3,000 dentists in Connecticut and they tell me that the most pressing concern for them in pursuing a career in the military dental corps is how to repay their loans.

Dr. Mark Desrosiers, a dentist from my congressional district in eastern Connecticut, says, "Having been in the military, and a practicing dentist myself, I think this would be a great way to ensure that residents in military specialty programs not be penalized financially by losing their special pay."

Another dentist explains during an exit interview why, though he would rather have stayed in the military, his financial burden forced him to leave. "The main reason for my decision to leave the Air Force is my financial situation. I have enjoyed my time in the Air Force and believe it is one of the best ways for a young dentist to gain experience both as a dentist, leader and follower. It was a difficult decision to make because my wife and I enjoy the military way of life, but we cannot pay our debt with the salary I am paid."

Mr. Speaker, in order to keep a sufficient number of quality dentists in the dental corps, thereby ensuring the dental readiness of America's forces, it is important to eliminate this disincentive that drives officers from the dental corps. Removing the restriction that the officers not receive additional special pay (ASP) while participating in a dental internship or residency training program would help achieve that end.

I urge all my colleagues to support my legislation.