

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION RULING

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Supreme Court decided to support the hopes and dreams of millions of Hispanic children. It tells them they will have the same opportunities, the same choices, the same future that others will. The Court was loud and clear when it said that diversity can be used by colleges and universities in their admissions policies.

This is a victory for the American people and for everything our country stands for. And we have this victory despite President Bush's efforts to undermine minority access to higher education. While saying he supports diversity, President Bush has actively worked to outlaw affirmative action at the University of Michigan and across the country. We cannot accept excuses. We cannot justify smoke and mirrors. The President says that considering race or ethnic background is unfair, but affirmative action programs are forward-focused to combat discrimination and promote diversity. I know that, the military knows that, corporate America knows that, and the 39 million Hispanics in this country know that. Today, the Supreme Court has said that it knows that too. The Supreme Court ruled over 25 years ago that diversity in admissions policies added to the educational and social experiences on our college and university campuses. The Court reaffirmed that decision today.

This ruling also sends a strong message to colleges and universities in California. At the University of California, the percentage of black and Hispanic students in medical and law schools has dropped since race-conscious admissions were eliminated a few years ago.

This year, black and Hispanic students make up only 16 percent of first-year students at California's five state-run medical schools and public law schools. In contrast, in the final years of race-conscious admissions, black and Hispanics consistently accounted for more than 20 percent of enrollment at these same schools. Acceptance rates for Hispanic applicants in the entire University of California system has dropped from 64 percent in 1997 to 47 percent in 2002. What is happening to those other students? They are not just numbers!!! They are people whose lives will be changed forever.

Today, fewer than 10 percent of college-aged Hispanics go on to higher education. Only 16 percent of Hispanics between the ages of 25–29 have Bachelor's degrees. What do these numbers tell us? It tells us that we do not have the same educational opportunities that others have.

President Bush says that we should not be satisfied with the current numbers of minorities on American college campuses. He's right. But other than nice words, what does he offer? He says one thing, then does another.

He has followed budget cuts and funding freezes of programs that benefit Hispanic children with an attack on Hispanic educational opportunities.

The Bush Administration tried to find yet another way to hinder our children's chances to an equal and quality education. We are fortunate that he failed in his effort to leave even more children behind.

This loss for the Bush Administration and for its policies is a victory for every child that wants an opportunity for a better education and a better life.

TRIBUTE TO CHANDLER A. HATCH AND PETER NOTIER

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Chandler Hatch, a senior at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, Illinois. On June 22, 2003, Chandler will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion from the Department of Education.

Chandler was selected by a 32 member commission from a field of over 2,600 candidates. The commission honors students based on their academic achievements, leadership abilities, community service, and continued commitment to excellence. Chandler will be awarded as part of the 39th Class of Presidential Scholars.

In addition to winning this award, Chandler was able to invite a teacher who has proven to be most influential and inspiring. Chandler selected Mr. Peter Notier, a distinguished English literature teacher at Lyons Township High School.

I would like to recognize Mr. Notier for his continued commitment to education and proven excellence in teaching. I commend Mr. Notier for his dedication and outstanding service in the field of education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing both Chandler and Peter and wish them success in the future.

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1460, the Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2003. This is essential legislation which ensures that those courageous and honorable men and women who served in our armed forces have the opportunity to receive valuable educational and professional opportu-

nities in the areas of entrepreneurship and business.

Veterans have served this country with distinction throughout its history, and many have risked their lives for our benefit. Especially in the wake of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, we should take steps to help our veterans successfully transition to civilian life.

The educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs is a benefit these veterans have earned, and it is important that they be able to use this assistance for valuable courses in the field of entrepreneurship, which teaches pragmatic and creative business practices useful in any field. In addition, by making it easier for disabled veterans to receive government contracts for their small businesses, this bill continues the partnership between these individuals and the government, and helps them to succeed in today's struggling economy. Operating a small business is a difficult but worthwhile endeavor, and veterans should have every opportunity to use their talents to aid the U.S. economy by starting new ventures based on their personal ingenuity.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Representative RENZI and the other Members of the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Small Business for introducing this legislation and bringing it to the floor today. It serves as a symbol of support for the heroes who have admirably protected our freedom and served this Nation in the armed forces.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Madam Speaker, one of the biggest challenges facing our country today is the fact that nearly 41 million working Americans do not have health insurance. While some opt out of purchasing health insurance, a majority of people simply do not have access to affordable health insurance coverage. Routinely I hear from constituents in my district about this very problem. They are struggling to keep up with ever increasing insurance premiums and are left with few coverage options. Few can afford premium increases of 12 percent or more each year, especially in a slow economy. This is a problem in communities across the United States. In fact, the annual cost to the United States for uninsured Americans is estimated to be somewhere between \$65 and \$130 billion.

More than 60 percent of the 41 million uninsured Americans work for a small business or are a dependent of a small business worker, and small businesses have been hardest hit by skyrocketing premiums. Currently, labor unions, medium-sized businesses and Fortune

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500 companies like Ford, Chrysler and Wal-Mart have the ability to offer health benefits to their employees without complying with the diverse benefit-laden insurance mandates that exist in each of the 50 states. This exemption keeps health insurance costs down. Unfortunately, small businesses, less able to shoulder the burden of such mandates, end up paying almost 18 percent more than their big business counterparts for similar health insurance coverage. This is simply unacceptable.

Today, I join my colleagues in supporting, The Small Business Fairness Act (H.R. 660). H.R. 660 allows small businesses to form Association Health Plans (AHPs). I believe that AHPs can help reduce the number of uninsured, and I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this important legislation. By creating AHPs, small business may pool their resources and increase their bargaining power with insurers, which will allow them to negotiate better rates and purchase quality health care at a lower cost. H.R. 660 is an important first step toward making health insurance more affordable and accessible.

The time has come for all Members of this House to support small businesses. It is time to pass the Small Business Fairness Act.

IN MEMORY OF RAY ABRIL, SR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I rise today, on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, to pay tribute to the memory of Ray Abril, Sr.

Ray Abril, Sr. was a pillar of the community, a surrogate father, a molder of character, a counselor, a coach, a builder of men. Mr. Abril passed away Sunday, May 18, 2003. He was 93 years old. To the youth of Boy Scout Troop 45 of south Colton during 1942 to 1962, he was their mentor and Scoutmaster.

On May 17, 2003, former Scouts, members of the Abril family, and community leaders gathered to pay tribute to this great man of honor. They came from near and far, over 300 strong to honor him and to provide the testimony to the positive impact Mr. Abril had on the young people of San Bernardino County.

To Ray Abril, the Boy Scouts of America and the organization of his troop was paramount. His patrol leaders were as older brothers, who taught and quizzed the new members on their way to the rank of "Tenderfoot." They learned knot tying, how to roll up sleeping bags, and how to pitch a tent. Through all of this, he did not coddle them; he let them move forward at their own pace and make mistakes. But he was always there to guide them when necessary. And guide them he did, but always in a clear direction and the young boys always admired and respected him.

I will remember Ray Abril, Sr. as a man who left his mark on history as a devoted and supportive husband, father, statesman, community leader, Boy Scout leader, mentor and a man of irrefutable wisdom. His remarkably full life is a model to all as an embodiment of the vibrant and dynamic spirit of a true American. My Barbara and I extend to the Abril family the thoughts and prayers of a grateful Nation.

SOLILOQUY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents has written a poem that showcases our Nation's flag in a glorifying manner. Mr. Victor Miller of Madisonville, Tennessee is the author of a poem titled "Soliloquy." Mr. Miller is the son of Jeanette Miller, who passed this poem along to me. Our Country's morale and heritage is strong today because of patriots like Victor Miller. I would like to call "Soliloquy" to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

SOLILOQUY

Imagine as a flag
on all folks passing by
with edifying waves
influencing their lives.

Esteemed a lofty reign
& honored to belong
all would offer tribute
in oaths, salute or songs!

Recognition could abound
for victories secured
defending liberties
despite many injured.

A patriotic stance
of opportunities
advocating, freedoms
by land, the air & sea!

In each of fifty stars
& else where when observed
the glory of your stripes
would valiantly be served!

Halleluah!!!!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAX BURNS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make note of how I cast my vote on roll number 293 on Thursday, June 19, 2003. As the record illustrates, I was present and cast my vote on roll number 292 at 1:44 p.m.; on roll number 293 recorded at 1:51 p.m., however, I was present but my vote was not recorded. While I cast my vote on roll number 293, technical difficulties prevented my vote from being recorded. My vote on roll number 293 as cast was in the affirmative.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JEFF TAYLOR

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country are exceptional. The United States has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated military personnel who willingly and unselfishly dedicate their lives to service and make our country a safer place to live and work. Navy Commander Jeff Taylor is one of these individuals.

On July 21, 2003, he will be honored as he retires from the U.S. Navy.

Jeff was raised in Southern California and graduated from Southern California College with a B.A. in Business Administration in 1978. After working for three years for a major defense contractor in Newport Beach, California, he accepted an appointment to Naval Officer Candidate School and received his commission in 1981.

Commander Taylor first served as the Combat Information Center Officer aboard the USS Cochrane based in Yokosuka, Japan and as the Fire Control Officer and Main Propulsion Assistant on the USS Leahy based in San Diego, California. He also served as an instructor at the Surface Warfare Officers School in Coronado teaching combat systems and ship control curriculum.

After completing Department Head School, Commander Taylor served as Chief Engineering Officer on the USS Worden based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. During this time he participated in Operations Desert Shield and Storm. Jeff also served as Maintenance Officer at Assault Craft Unit 5 at Camp Pendleton, California where he directed maintenance and repair of Navy hovercraft and subsequently served as an Engineering Branch Head and instructor at the Surface Warfare Officers School in Newport, Rhode Island. Jeff then returned to sea duty as Executive Officer on the USS Kidd based in Norfolk, Virginia and later served as Chief Staff Officer for Destroyer Squadrons 20 and 32.

Upon completing his sea duty, Jeff reported to the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division in March of 1999. Commander Taylor also earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration and a Diploma from the United States Naval War College. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal and Navy Commendation Medals.

Commander Taylor is happily married to his wife Bonnie and enjoys surfing and long distance running in his spare time.

Jeff's lifetime dedication to military service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our country and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

HONORING HARLEY-DAVIDSON ON ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would recognize the 100th anniversary of one of America's greatest corporations and a treasure of Milwaukee, Wisconsin—the Harley-Davidson Motor Company. 100 years ago this August in the Davidson family backyard at 38th Street and Highland Boulevard, William Harley and the Davidson brothers, Arthur, Walter, and William, finished work on their first motorcycle.

Shortly afterwards the Harley-Davidson Motor Company was built on the site of the company's current world headquarters in Milwaukee. Over the next 100 years Harley-Davidson has gone on to outstanding success,