

HONORING CHALLENGE TO
CHANGE PROGRAM

(Mr. KLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of some exceptional young Minnesotans. The students and staff of Lakeville High School have taken it upon themselves to meet a growing need within their community. Inspired to act by the tragic drug and alcohol-related death of a Lakeville student, principals Julie Espe convened a task force focused on drug education and prevention, and the "Challenge to Change" effort was begun.

Lakeville students and staff members involved in this task force have organized awareness activities for high school and junior high school students, including panel discussions with students who have overcome challenges, as well as those who have made the tough choice to avoid drug and alcohol use. These events have made a significant impact on the youth of the Lakeville community, and have gained the attention of community leaders and local officials.

Encouraged by the early success, the group has many more activities planned to emphasize their message throughout the upcoming graduation season. The proactive efforts of the Challenge to Change group are a fantastic example of the positive power of community involvement in the lives of our children.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts of those involved in the Challenge to Change program, and wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING SENATOR ARAM
GARABEDIAN

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant and dear friend, Senator Aram Garabedian on the occasion of his 70th birthday. I have known Aram for 15 years, and he has never failed to inspire me with his commitment to the citizens of Rhode Island.

Born and raised in Rhode Island, Aram Garabedian currently resides in Cranston and serves as city council president. But this is only the most recent chapter in his distinguished career. Since the early 1970s, Aram has served in a number of capacities, most notably as a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives and a State senator.

He has been a model citizen, and he has never stopped serving his community and fellow Rhode Islanders.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize my good friend, Aram Garabedian, for his lifetime of service,

and to wish him a happy and healthy 70th birthday.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the first 100 days of the 109th Congress have been very successful, but there is still a lot of work we have got to do. One item at the top of the list is our need to strengthen Social Security. I was honored to accompany President Bush to my home State of South Carolina as he addressed the general assembly regarding the issue of Social Security. I have found that for the most part people understand that Social Security is safe for today's seniors and those nearing retirement, but is still very dangerous for our younger workers; and they know the facts as they relate to the problem.

What they want is for Congress to present clear and concise ideas on a permanent fix. I look forward to working with my colleagues toward a solution in the coming weeks and months to fix once and for all the Social Security system. The time is now. The opportunity is now. The future is now.

REPUBLICAN ETHICS REVERSAL

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the House Republican majority finally did the right thing last week when it restored bipartisan ethics rules. Republicans fortunately caved to public criticism. And now, as the Ethics Committee gets ready to organize, we will see if the Republican majority is really interested in restoring the integrity of this institution.

The new chairman of the Ethics Committee has said that he wants to appoint his chief of staff from his personal office to be the new staff director of the Ethics Committee. This action would defy House rules, which explicitly state that Ethics Committee staffers are to be nonpartisan. The rule is important since the actions of the Ethics Committee are intended to protect the integrity of this institution, not the integrity of an individual Member of either political party.

By appointing a Republican as the main staffer on the Ethics Committee, the Republican majority would undermine any decision that came out of the committee. I would hope that Chairman HASTINGS would reconsider this political appointment before the Ethics Committee organizes in the coming days.

HONORING WILLIAM CLAY FORD,
SR.

(Mr. MCCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Clay Ford, Sr., for 57 years of dedicated service as a member of the Ford Motor Company's board of directors. He has served on the board with distinction for over half of the Ford Motor Company's history of almost 102 years. As the only surviving grandson of the late Henry Ford and the father of the current chairman, he uniquely links Ford's past, present, and future.

Mr. FORD served the company as an employee from 1949 until 1989. He held a variety of executive positions, including vice president and general manager of the continental division. Throughout his career, he oversaw the design and development of a number of classic vehicles, including the Continental Mark II, a worthy successor to the Continentals designed by his father, Edsel Ford. The Mark II is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful personal luxury cars ever built.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring William Clay Ford, Sr., as he retires from the Ford Motor Company board of directors and in wishing him the best of luck as he becomes director emeritus.

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month. As a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander American Caucus, I am proud to pay tribute to the 120,000 individuals of Asian descent that I represent in the 32nd Congressional District in California. Communities like Rosemead, Monterey Park, West Covina and other cities throughout my district have experienced firsthand the economic and cultural contributions of Asian and Pacific Islanders. Asian and Pacific Islanders in my district represent local government, entrepreneurs, educators, and patriots. This month we should also remember the great contributions that were provided by Congressman Robert Matsui, who was a great advocate and champion of Asian American issues throughout our country.

I encourage all my colleagues to celebrate with us throughout the month of May to learn more about the rich cultures of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SOLOMON
AMENDMENT

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, recently the Supreme Court announced it would