

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

decide whether some law schools might curb military recruiters' access to their students. The issue in question is the Solomon amendment, a Federal law that requires universities to give military recruiters equal access or risk losing millions of dollars in Federal funding. These universities allow IBM, GE and other corporations access, but not the military. I commend the Supreme Court for taking up this case and urge them to reverse a lower court injunction against enforcement of the Solomon amendment.

The Solomon amendment is necessary to protect the military against the antimilitary sentiment of some universities and colleges. Yet many of these universities receive millions and millions of hardworking American tax dollars in Federal funds. These universities will take taxpayers' money, but then will discriminate against the very people who put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms. This is not right. I urge support for the Solomon amendment.

NOTING CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS ON OCCASION OF CINCO DE MAYO

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the strength of the contributions of our immigrants. We find our immigrants, our sons and daughters, in government; we find them in the arts; we find them in medicine, in our educational system. And the strength that they provide our country has been outstanding. My mother and my father went only to a third and sixth grade education. They worked hard. They taught us how to work hard, and they taught us the power of education.

This is why it is important that we recognize the strength and the diversity that our country is based on the immigrants, especially now that we rise and we see the Cinco de Mayo, especially my district, which is about 68 percent Hispanics. We should thank their contributions and recognize that contribution.

SENATE FILIBUSTER

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to denounce the grave injustice occurring a few hundred yards from here in the United States Senate. As any student of American Government knows, it is the job of the President to nominate fellow Americans to serve as Federal judges, and it is the job of the Senate to either approve or reject those nominations. It is a simple system that guarantees proper checks and balances in the manner our forefathers envisioned.

Over the past 2 years, though, Senate Democrats have exploited parliamen-

tary loopholes to prevent the Senate from voting up or down on many of President Bush's highly qualified nominees. They are hiding behind the Senate filibuster to block judicial nominees who have the support of the majority of the Senate, something that has never been done in American history.

Democrats in the Senate are not asking for time to debate these nominees. They are not going to the American people and explaining why they oppose them. They are not even using their talents of persuasion to urge their Republican colleagues to vote "no." No, they are just refusing to vote. And that is just wrong.

I stand for this simple proposition, that every judicial nominee of the President deserves a fair yes-or-no vote. If Democrats do not like the President's nominees, they can vote "no," but to avoid voting altogether is a dangerous disservice.

SECOND CHANCE REENTRY ACT

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I understand that Representative Rob Portman's last day was Friday of last week. President Bush appointed him to be the U.S. Trade Representative, and Rob has gone off to pursue those duties. I want to wish him well.

Rob and I worked closely together, and we introduced something called the Second Chance Reentry Act, to assist inmates coming home from prison to rehabilitate and redeploy and redevelop and reestablish their lives. I have never enjoyed working more with a Member who was dedicated to what he was attempting to do, totally committed, willing to compromise; and we have a bill that we think will go a long way toward assisting these individuals.

And so I trust that in memory of the great work that Rob Portman did, all of us will support the Second Chance Reentry Act and continue the work that Rob was so proud of. Rob, we thank you.

IRAQI CABINET

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

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, a few short months ago, millions of Iraqis risked their lives by simply casting a vote. This week, the bravery demonstrated on that historic January day came to fruition as the country's first freely elected government in over half a century was sworn in. The new cabinet is representative of the various ethnic and religious groups in Iraq and will be charged with the important task of writing a permanent Iraqi constitution. This milestone is yet another victory for the Iraqi people and

delivers a further blow to the terrorists and advances the cause of freedom worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate our continued admiration and support of the Iraqi people, and I commend them for the courage and tenacity they continue to demonstrate as they embrace freedom and democracy.

109TH REPUBLICANS DELIVER ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America's economic future is bright. Since May 2003, more than 3 million American jobs have been created, and we have had 22 straight months of job growth. In the last month alone, more than 110,000 Americans have found jobs.

In the past 100 days, House Republicans have delivered a long list of accomplishments that are spurring economic growth and making a positive difference for millions of American families. The 109th Congress has passed legislation that will permanently repeal the death tax, decrease the deficit, strengthen America's borders, prevent frivolous lawsuits, improve our highways, and provide our country with a comprehensive energy plan. Because of our continued efforts, the unemployment rate is now at the lowest level since September 2001.

Each of these accomplishments will ensure that our economy continues to improve. However, we will not be satisfied until every American who wants a job can find a job. Although Democrats continue to try to obstruct our positive agenda, House Republicans will remain dedicated to helping American workers take care of their families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, God bless Grace Christian School, and we will never forget September 11.

JUDICIAL NOMINEES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, as an elected official from the First District of Ohio, I took an oath to uphold the Constitution. In taking the oath, I have an obligation to ensure that the Constitution and the intent of the Founding Fathers is protected. The American people deserve to know that the Constitution, the intent of the Founders, and 214 years of tradition are being jeopardized by use, or the threatened use, of the filibuster on judicial nominations. Never before has a judicial nominee with clear majority support been denied an up-or-down vote. The filibuster is not part of the Constitution, nor is it even part of the original Senate rules. However, the use of the filibuster on judicial nominations threatens the very principles on