

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
U.S. MARINE LANCE CORPORAL
THOMAS OLIVER KEELING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Lance Corporal Thomas Oliver Keeling, who courageously and selflessly heeded the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Corporal Keeling's life was defined by his family, friends, love for his country and an unbridled energy and joy that he freely extended to others. He received inner strength and faith from those who knew him best and loved him most, especially his parents, Sherry Berry and Thomas Keeling, step-parents, Robert Berry and Diane Palos, and siblings, Erin, Kristen and Rebecca.

Corporal Keeling was a dedicated family member, student and Marine. After graduating from Strongsville High School in 2000, he enrolled at Kent State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 2004. He was always willing to go the extra mile for his family, friends, and for those with whom he served beside, with the highest level of honor and integrity, the men and women of Weapons Company—3rd Battalion, 25th U.S. Marine Regiment in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Lance Corporal Thomas Oliver Keeling. I extend my deepest condolences to his entire family, extended family, and to his many friends. The immeasurable sacrifice, significant service, and unwavering bravery that framed his young life will be forever held within the hearts of all who knew and loved him well. Corporal Keeling's life is testament to all that is good in humanity, and his legacy will be honored and remembered by the people of Strongsville, the Cleveland community, and the entire Nation, for all time.

HONORING CODY-ANNE WEISE AND
AMY TRAVIS AS RECIPIENTS OF
THE WELCH'S SCHOLARSHIP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary academic achievements of Cody-Anne Weise and Amy Travis as recipients of the Welch's scholarship.

Children and grandchildren of Welch's and the National Grape Cooperative employees are eligible for the \$1,500 scholarship.

Ms. Weise is the daughter of James and Cynthia Weise of Sherman. Mrs. Weise is employed by Welch's as harvest, fruit receiving supervisor at the North East, Pennsylvania plant. Cody-Anne is a 2003 graduate of Sherman Central School and a graduate of Jamestown Community College with an associate's degree in individual studies. In August, Ms. Weise will enter SUNY Fredonia as a junior with plans to study secondary English education.

Ms. Travis is the daughter of David and Marcia Travis of Brocton, NY and the granddaughter of Edward Sunday. Mr. Sunday is a member of the National Grape Cooperative and a retired 30-year employee of Welch's. Amy participates in the 3-1-3 program at SUNY Fredonia making this the third time she has been awarded with the scholarship. This fall Amy plans to return to Fredonia State to major in music education.

I am honored Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor these accomplished and bright women.

CONGRATULATING THE GRANT
FAMILY ON THE BIRTH OF
THEIR CHILD, ALLISON MARIE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Bill and Claudia Grant on the birth of their child. Allison Marie Grant was welcomed into this world at 7:04 am on June 17th, 2005, weighing 6 pounds 12½ ounces. Both the mother and father's families were present to celebrate the joyful birth. The entire Citrus County Community welcomes their newest citizen. I congratulate Bill and Claudia on the new addition to their family and wish them years of continued health and happiness.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my support for the Community Services Block Grants, and take a moment to highlight the effect these grants have on my District. CSBG funds are used to support the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV). I have a long history of working with the CACLV on a wide range of antipoverty initiatives which include housing, hunger, and community development, and I have seen the positive contributions that CACLV has made as a result of CSBG funding.

CSBG grants are uniquely effective because they are locally-controlled and respond to the particular need of each individual community. The grants produce a return on investments and have a sophisticated outcome-based accountability system. In my district, the CACLV generates over \$8 for each CSBG dollar; half of that leveraged money comes from private

sources which include utilities, banks, churches, foundations, and individuals.

CACLV runs two homeless shelters in my district—Safe Harbor in Easton and the 6th Street Shelter in Allentown. These shelters serve individuals and families with issues ranging from drug and alcohol dependence to mental health. The CACLV also operates Second Harvest Food Bank, distributing about 5 million pounds of donated and government food to over 170 agencies each year.

CACLV operates three community development subsidiaries that are conducting entrepreneurial training and offer micro loans to help create dozens of micro enterprises each year. These CDC's operate two inner-city farmers' markets, offer cash assistance to struggling neighborhood-based businesses, provide residential and commercial facade improvement grants, and youth recreation programs.

Finally, CACLV operates a comprehensive financial services program that teaches dozens of low income families to save money and buy homes. Additionally, the CACLV offers free tax preparation services to over 600 tax-paying households.

Beyond these impressive efforts, the CACLV has a record of building partnerships. It conceived and led a campaign that resulted in two open space referenda. This project is set to generate \$70 million to create and enhance parks, protect natural areas and preserve farms. The CACLV's housing initiatives have led campaigns to create housing trust funds in two counties in my district, and funded programs that have dramatically expanded homeownership throughout the Lehigh Valley.

The funding reductions included in this bill will greatly impact CACLV and Community Action Agencies across the country. The Executive Director of CACLV expects that a cut in excess of 50 percent will result in the closing of one of its homeless shelters and all of its small business development work and perhaps even more.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that my district and the nation need the services that Community Action agencies provide. Although I understand the tight budget constraints we face, these programs will stimulate the economy and improve the quality of life for the residents of my district. As the appropriations process advances, I would like to express my support for funding levels equal to the final FY 2005 appropriations for CSBG.

REGARDING MEETING WITH
GENERAL LLOYD W. NEWTON

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, on June 27th and 28th, I have requested an official leave of absence to attend to issues that are of vital importance to the people of Maine. I will be meeting with Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) representative General Lloyd W. Newton at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Limestone, Maine. This facility is currently slated to close as part of the BRAC process. I will be leading General Lloyd W. Newton on a tour of the base to present the case that the facility must not be closed.

Currently, 362 hardworking Mainers are employed in the Limestone facility. Aroostook County and Northern Maine have already been devastated by the closure of the Loring Air Force Base. Additional job loss, along with the losses due to the proposed realignment at Brunswick Naval Air Station and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, would have a serious impact in Maine. It is important for me to meet personally with General Newton, along with Governor Baldacci, so that we can stress the critical service that this facility provides for the military and its vital importance to the Maine economy.

INTRODUCING THE FREEDOM
FROM UNNECESSARY LITIGATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act. As its title suggests, this bill provides an effective means of ensuring that those harmed during medical treatment receive fair compensation while reducing the burden of costly malpractice litigation on the health care system. This bill achieves its goal by providing a tax credit for negative outcomes insurance purchased before medical treatment. The insurance will provide compensation for any negative outcomes of the medical treatment. Patients can receive this insurance without having to go through lengthy litigation and without having to give away a large portion of their award to a trial lawyer.

Relying on negative outcomes insurance instead of litigation will also reduce the costs imposed on physicians, other health care providers, and hospitals by malpractice litigation. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act also promotes effective solutions to the malpractice crisis by making malpractice awards obtained through binding, voluntary arbitration tax-free.

The malpractice crisis has contributed to the closing of a maternity ward in Philadelphia and a trauma center in Nevada. Meanwhile, earlier this year, surgeons in West Virginia walked off the job to protest increasing liability rates. These are a few of the examples of how access to quality health care is jeopardized by the epidemic of large (and medically questionable) malpractice awards, and the resulting increase in insurance rates.

As is typical of Washington, most of the proposed solutions to the malpractice problem involve unconstitutional usurpations of areas best left to the states. These solutions also ignore the root cause of the litigation crisis: the shift away from treating the doctor-patient relationship as a contractual one to viewing it as one governed by regulations imposed by insurance company functionaries, politicians, government bureaucrats, and trial lawyers. There is no reason why questions of the assessment of liability and compensation cannot be determined by a private contractual agreement between physicians and patients. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act is designed to take a step toward resolving these problems through private contracts.

Using insurance, private contracts, and binding arbitration to resolve medical disputes

benefits patients, who receive full compensation in a timelier manner than under the current system. It also benefits physicians and hospitals, which are relieved of the costs associated with litigation. Since it will not cost as much to provide full compensation to an injured patient, these bills should result in a reduction of malpractice premiums. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act benefits everybody except those trial lawyers who profit from the current system. I hope all my colleagues will help end the malpractice crises while ensuring those harmed by medical injuries receive just compensation by cosponsoring my Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MATTHIAS PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the leaders and members of St. Matthias Parish, of Parma, Ohio, as they celebrate twenty-five years of faith, guidance and hope for parishioners, and for the greater good of the community.

Twenty-five years ago, St. Matthias was established by the late Bishop James A. Hickey. Bishop Hickey was later appointed to serve as Cardinal James A. Hickey. He announced that St. Matthias, a former mission parish, would now evolve into a full-fledged parish. Father Vincent Moraghan became the first Pastor of the church. On June 28, 1980, the first Mass was held at Green Valley School in Parma. The friendly and warm atmosphere of St. Matthias Parish has remained constant through the years. This spirit of cooperation and unity brought forth the planning and construction of a new church and rectory, completed by 1987. Following Pastor Moraghan's retirement, Father Raymond Sutter was appointed as Pastor, and continues his service to St. Matthias to this day.

The leadership and members of St. Matthias are a unified force of strength and assistance for many within the parish, and also for those in need, outside the parish. Volunteers continue to plan and implement programs such as the Volunteer Visitors Program, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Red Cross Drives, and the "Manna" Fundraiser, all of which serve to provide assistance and lift the spirit of individuals and families throughout our community.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every leader and member of St. Matthias Parish, as they celebrate twenty-five years of offering spiritual guidance for countless families and individuals. Since 1980, the parish has evolved in structure and location, yet it remains a steady beacon of light, faith and hope, that embraces the spiritual needs and everyday struggles of all parishioners.

HONORING ZACHARY AGETT UPON RECEIVING THE J.C. MATTESON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Zachary Agett, a resident of Chautauqua County, City of Jamestown, upon the occasion of receiving the J.C. Matteson Memorial Scholarship.

Zachary was awarded the scholarship for his honorable character and athletic achievement. Both on and off the football field: Agett displays dedication, selflessness, integrity and leadership, many of the same admirable attributes that J.C. Matteson demonstrated.

This scholarship fund was established by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation in honor of J.C. Matteson who died a very honorable death in Iraq last October. J.C. Matteson was a student and football player at Southwestern High School.

His father, James, plans to head up the fund-raising efforts for the scholarship for years to come. James Matteson's goal is to raise \$29,000 and award two \$1,000 scholarships in the coming years.

In the fall Agett plans to attend Washington and Jefferson University, where he will play football and major in biology. It is a wonderful honor to share the characteristics possessed by a fallen hero.

Zachary Agett is an upstanding young man and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor him today.

TECHNOLOGY, TRADE AND CHINA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, Harris Miller, president of the Information Technology Association of America, recently wrote an opinion piece for the San Jose Mercury News. In this piece, Mr. Miller addresses some serious concerns about the Chinese government's trade policies and their efforts to control and limit information on the internet. Mr. Miller makes some excellent points and I encourage all of my colleagues to review his article.

[From the San Jose Mercury News, May 23, 2005]

IN WALLING OFF SOFTWARE MARKET, CHINA FORGETS TRADE GOES TWO WAYS

(By Harris N. Miller)

Chinese trade practices have long been the subject of complaint from U.S. manufacturers, particularly in the textile industry. American high-tech firms now see the storm clouds forming for their own business sectors. Two trends are particularly disturbing: China's leaders are quietly closing the doors to domestic market software competition while simultaneously attempting to expand government control over the Internet.

Despite U.S. protests, the Chinese government has published draft regulations that effectively would close China's government market to American and other foreign software companies. Software is likely to be the