

Henry, Chris Rainwater, Ryan Harris, Mike Bautista, Chris Coyer, Jack Tyler, Jackson Kibler, Kevin Swanson, Taylor Naleppa, Jonathan Kedrock, Justin Otley, Josh Nelson, Mark Bleiweis, David Crain, Jim Roberts, Zachary Capozzoli, Patrick Tyler, Jeremy Rudolph, Carl Myrville, Bo Farrar, Flory Niyonkuru, Alex Hanson, Joshua Lewin, Kevin Miller, Jared Ruppert, Evan Fiore, Tim Seeger, Asif Kazmi, Gavin Wait, Jared Green, Rob Koster, Mark Larsen, Clark Scheible, Marques Wilson, Kevin Schweiker, Ryan Keely, Mike Shvenderman, Joe Sullivan, Drew Whalen, Joey McCallum, Thomas Vitale, Kevin Culkin, James Wheatley, Chad Faulkner, Michael Pournaras, Wade Reynolds, Kenny Hanson, and Morad Motamedi (Manager)

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor their championship, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

H.R. 609 FAILS AMERICA'S  
STUDENTS

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in opposition to H.R. 609, the so-called "College Access and Opportunity Act," because it creates greater problems in providing financial assistance for college students, and will lead to graduates inheriting greater debt. The Republicans have chosen to neglect young Americans who need assistance with the costs of higher education. A number of academic organizations oppose this legislation including The National Education Association, the United States Student Association, and The American Federation of Teachers. The Democratic alternative to this bill helps those students and their families who cannot afford the skyrocketing costs of college tuition in America today.

This legislation is problematic because it produces a number of obstacles which could interfere with students' ability to pursue higher education. It fails to make college more affordable for Americans falling in the low- and middle-income brackets by prohibiting them from consolidating their loans while in school or during the six month grace period directly following graduation. The "College Access and Opportunity Act" also revokes a student's ability to secure a low fixed-interest rate. In addition, it bars married couples from consolidating their student loans with their spouses.

The Republicans claim they are for strengthening Pell grants when the truth is that over the last four years, their legislation has done the exact opposite. In 2000, the maximum Pell grant covered about 41% of tuition expenses. Now, in 2006, the maximum Pell grant barely covers a third of tuition expenses. Students are unable to cover this gap. This bill creates problems in the long run which will prevent millions of students from attending college simply because they cannot afford it and because the Republicans in Congress have refused to make higher education a priority.

Students and their families deserve more than what this resolution offers. That is why I will be supporting the more comprehensive approach found in the Democratic alternative, the Miller-Kildee-Scott-Davis-Grijalva amendment.

The Democratic alternative offers many benefits to college students and their families. It cuts the college loan fixed interest rate in half from 6.8% to 3.4%. This will provide protection to students who use loans to finance their education. The Democratic alternative also provides funding for programs that support low-income black and Hispanic students.

Today nearly two-thirds of all American college students graduate with debt—up from one-third in 1993—and a typical student borrower graduates from college with \$17,500 in debt. The Republicans in Congress have taken \$12.5 billion dollars out of student aid accounts to pay for their tax cuts and now, with this bill, students will suffer the burden of higher interest rates, new fees, and more debt while in school and after graduation. Congress should create more opportunity for America's student, not less. H.R. 609 hurts students and their families who cannot afford the cost of higher education.

TRIBUTE FOR JOSE "LEFTY"  
MARTINEZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jose "Lefty" Martinez, a lifelong resident of Laredo, for his bravery and service to the nation during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Jose Martinez passed away recently on March 23rd, 2006, in San Antonio, Texas.

There were many that lost their lives during World War II, however, Lefty Martinez's valiant return reminded us of the sacrifices made in defending our freedom and liberty. It was the call to service that drew Lefty at the age of seventeen. It was March 1946, when Lefty had enlisted in the Marine Corps, which took him to the Barbers Point Naval Air Station in Hawaii, working on C-46 and C-54 aircraft transports.

When his two-year tour was cut to fifteen months, however, he remained with aviation for years after he left the Marine Corps as a civilian contractor. Veterans' training benefits gave him the opportunity to receive federal licensing as an aircraft mechanic, enabling him to serve all over the United States and in places such as the Philippines, Thailand, France, and Vietnam. In Vietnam, he lost half of his civilian contract crew during the 1968 Tet Offensive, and shortly afterwards, he returned back to Laredo, Texas.

In Laredo, Lefty joined veteran organizations and was the commander of the Catholic War Veterans Post 1908. He also was a former member of the American Legion, VFW, Marine Corps League and Vietnam Veterans of America. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree Assembly No. 2565, and a former member of the Laredo Evening Lions Club and the Webb County Heritage Foundation.

What I remember about Lefty was his dedication to his country. In the spare time he had, he always stopped by the middle and high schools to talk about his war experiences, and he showed the importance in serving one's country with honor and dignity. It is a great loss to this country to have lost such a great veteran, and I hope we will continue to treat

our veterans today with the respect they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Jose "Lefty" Martinez.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KATHY A.  
BATTERMAN

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy L. Batterman who became one of the first crew members for "Flight for Life" and was the first certified flight nurse in the United States. Mrs. Batterman's life was tragically cut short in the line of duty when, on April 4, 1999, the "Flight for Life" helicopter crashed in Indian Springs Nevada during a bizarre snowstorm after transporting a patient to a Las Vegas hospital.

During her career Kathy flew over 3,000 rescue flights and is credited with saving thousands of lives. Kathy epitomized excellence in all aspects of nursing. Not only was she one of America's premiere flight nurses, she was a certified flight registered nurse, an advanced trauma specialist, and Nevada's first pre-hospital nurse practitioner. Kathy was a respected educator and a pioneer of EMS education in Nevada. Her contagious energetic spirit, encouraging smile, and enthusiasm inspired many others to do their best. Kathy was also instrumental in placing a second "Flight for Life" base in Pahrump, Nevada recognizing how crucial the response time is for those needing emergency care in the outlying rural communities around Las Vegas. Not only was she a magnificent flight nurse, she was also a caring and devoted wife and mother.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Kathy A. Batterman for her dedication to providing emergency medical service to the Las Vegas and outlying community. Her death is a profound loss to the community and the medical profession.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
JAMES ANTHONY ZACK, A CHAMPION  
OF LABOR

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of James Anthony Zack, who was truly a champion for the rights of working people in northeast Ohio and a proud and dedicated Teamster.

Jim served for 18 years as a Union Trustee, Vice President, and in June of 1997, was elected President of Teamsters Local #1164. He was constantly working to further his knowledge of the issues and areas of concern to Ohio's working families. In 2002, he received a certificate in labor relations from Cleveland State University.

A 1958 graduate of Elyria High School, Jim had over 25 years in sales at Pepsi Cola of Elyria, close to 23 of which were as a driver salesman. Additionally, Jim owned and operated his own businesses as a distributor for 7-Up and Pepsi.