

COMMENDING THE BOBBY DODD
INSTITUTE AND THE JAVITS-
WAGNER-O'DAY PROGRAM

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today there are roughly 45 million Americans with a disability, many of whom are forced to rely on public assistance because they cannot find or keep a job. Of people with disabilities, approximately 5.2 million receive Social Security Disability Insurance, 3.5 million receive Supplemental Security Insurance, and 1.3 million receive both.

By tapping into the potential of a person with a disability through a job opportunity we can help them to become taxpaying citizens who can help to power America's economy and strengthen our communities. I recently had the opportunity to visit the Bobby Dodd Institute (BDI) in Atlanta, Georgia, and was able to witness first-hand the power of employment for disabled individuals. BDI offers a variety of vocational services including employee development training, computer and customer service training job readiness classes and daily living courses.

For this reason, I salute the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. JWOD provides employment opportunities to Americans with disabilities by using the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit, agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities.

The JWOD program serves 40,000 people with disabilities nationwide, and last year it generated approximately \$280 million in earned wages, and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold.

In Georgia alone, approximately 1,000 people with disabilities earned almost \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD. These numbers vividly demonstrate the difference that can be made in both the economy and the lives of Americans with disabilities. This is a program that truly makes a difference in lives of people with disabilities, and today I am proud to offer my commendation for all of these noble and inspiring efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that one of my votes yesterday, Thursday, May 18, 2006, as recorded as an "aye" but my intent was to vote "nay."

I ask that the RECORD reflect that I would have voted "nay" on Roll Call vote #168 (On Agreeing to the Chabot Amendment to H.R. 5386).

TRIBUTE TO MS. MARTHA R.
ROBERTS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful educator who is retiring after 34 years of service to our Nation's children. Ms. Martha R. Roberts, principal of Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary School in Columbia, South Carolina, will officially retire at the end of this school year from the very same school where her career began.

Ms. Roberts is a product of Richland School District Two, having graduated from Dentsville High School in 1967. She didn't stay away long, securing her first teaching position after graduating from Winthrop College (University) at Richland Two's Lonnie B. Nelson as a combined fourth and fifth grade teacher. She excelled as a classroom teacher winning awards as Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America in 1975, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Award for School Mathematics Program in 1978, and Lonnie Bee Teacher of the Year in 1979. That same year, she took a position as the Lead Teacher for Lonnie Bee's Math Lab program that gives extra attention to students who need it.

The administration at Lonnie Bee recognized the talent they had in Ms. Roberts, and in 1983, she was named Assistant Principal. In this role, she coordinated the school's curriculum and utilized her classroom expertise to help guide other teachers. During her time as Assistant Principal, Lonnie "Bee" earned the distinction as a National Blue Ribbon School Award recipient.

In 1988, Ms. Roberts left South Carolina to pursue opportunities in the Chicago, Illinois area. She consulted first for Kishwaukee Community College and Shabbona School System. She later became principal of Shabbona Schools that served children from preschool (child development) through the 12th grade.

Yet, Ms. Roberts' heart always remained in South Carolina, and she returned in 1992 to Walterboro (South Carolina) High School. Two years later she returned to Richland School District Two in Columbia to serve as principal of Forest Lake Elementary. During her six years there, the school was a National Blue Ribbon School Award winner.

Ms. Roberts later transferred to become principal of Dent Middle School, the former Dentsville High School from which she had graduated, for one year before she retired in June 2001. Her retirement was short-lived.

Ms. Roberts was pressed back into service in June 2002 to serve as a principal trainer at Killian Elementary School in Richland School District Two. The following year, she consulted with the district on creating a comprehensive and effective school choice program. Then in July 2004, she returned once again to Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary School to serve as principal at the very school where she began her career.

During her busy career, Ms. Roberts found time to complete her Masters in Education at the University of South Carolina, and do post-graduate work at USC, The Citadel and Northern Illinois University. She has also raised her son, Chris, and is now the proud grandmother

of Chris and his wife, Stephanie's son, Chandler.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Martha Roberts for her exemplary commitment to educating young children. She has demonstrated a tremendous talent and love that has helped nurture countless students during her 34-year career. I applaud her dedication to public education, and extend best wishes and Godspeed upon her retirement.

HONORING SGT. FIRST CLASS
ROBERT V. DERENDA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant First Class Robert V. Derenda, a brave American soldier who paid the ultimate sacrifice in his service to this Nation on a mission in Iraq.

A native of Cheektowaga, New York, SFC Derenda earned a degree in Education from The Citadel and a Chemical Engineering degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

After serving 4 years of active duty with the United States Army, SFC Derenda joined the reserves and worked as a drill sergeant in the 1st Brigade, 98th Division, based in Rochester, New York.

Comrades knew SFC Derenda as a leader and a mentor who shared his skills and experience so that others could serve and protect in the name of freedom. In fact, SFC Derenda's last mission involved the training of recruits for Iraq's military.

As a young boy, SFC Derenda walked down Candlelight Lane on his way to St. Joseph's School. On May 20th, western New York will pay tribute to this soldier and patriot by renaming that street "R.V. Derenda Lane" in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of the 27th Congressional District and all Americans, I wish to extend my sincerest gratitude for the supreme sacrifice made by Sergeant First Class Robert V. Derenda, a courageous and noble soldier. He has served to protect the safety and freedoms that make this Nation great and his memory will live on for those who travel down "R.V. Derenda Lane" for generations to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LINCOLN
ELECTRIC

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lincoln Electric, a manufacturer in my congressional district, for receiving the President's "E Star" Award for Exports. Lincoln Electric's export achievements are significant because it supports our economy by helping create jobs in Ohio and the United States.

The President's "E Star" Award is awarded for continued superior performance in increasing or promoting exports. Only previous recipients of the "E" Award are eligible. Lincoln