

HONORING SERGEANT BRIAN D. STINGER

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor West Deptford, New Jersey resident and United States Marine Corps Sergeant Brian D. Stinger for his outstanding service and heroic action while stationed in Japan.

Sergeant Stinger recently received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for saving the life of a Japanese man who caught fire while filling a generator with gas. At great risk to his personal safety, Sergeant Stinger retrieved a fire extinguisher and put out the fire. His heroic efforts saved this man's life.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of Brian Stinger prove that our military service members perform acts of heroism, on and off the battlefield, every day. I applaud his brave and selfless act, and I thank him for his service to our Nation. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS ORGANIZATIONS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I want to call attention to an important event occurring in my district and recognize the two programs giving rise to this event, which have had a tremendous impact on the health care of underserved populations in our country. Beginning June 10 and continuing through June 14, the Nebraska Area Health Education program and the University of Nebraska Medical Center are sponsoring the National Area Health Education Center Organization's (NAO) annual meeting in my district in Omaha, Nebraska. I want to use the opportunity of the national meeting to illustrate the importance of Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) and Health Education Training Centers (HETCs) through the many services and programs they offer.

Area Health Education Centers, established by Congress in 1971, are academic-community partnerships that train health care providers at sites and in programs that are responsive to state and local needs. AHECs improve the supply, distribution, diversity and quality of the health workforce and increase access to health care in medically underserved areas. Furthermore, AHECs facilitate coordination of the resources of health science centers with local educational and clinical resources, which in turn establishes a network that provides multi-disciplinary educational services to students, faculty, and practitioners.

Health Education Training Centers, established in 1989, provide community health education and health professions training programs in areas of the United States with severely underserved populations, such as border states. Together, AHEC and HETC programs recruit, train, and retain health professionals committed to serving underserved populations and provide community programs for

specific populations with severe unmet health needs. Across the country, there are 61 AHEC/HETC programs and 215 affiliated AHEC centers that collaborate with over 120 medical schools and 600 nursing and allied health schools to improve the health of the underserved.

As reported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in a typical year, AHECs alone will train 37,000 health professions students in community-based sites, provide health career enhancement and recruitment activities of 20 hours or more to 42,000 high school students, and provide continuing education to 315,000 health care providers. In FY 2005, nearly 10,000 physicians participated in mentoring and training activities to students in community sites. Also, AHEC/HETCs were credited with providing training in medically underserved communities to over 47,000 health professions students.

Recent studies and reports express serious concern regarding the current and predicted shortage of health care professionals across the country, which further illustrates the important work of AHEC/HETCs. In 2005, AHECs/HETCs were successful in introducing health careers to 300,000 students ranging from kindergarten through college.

Mr. Speaker, AHEC/HETC programs serve many important purposes with respect to the recruitment, retention, education and training of health professionals in underserved areas. Today, I would like to fully recognize, appreciate and honor the efforts and activities of AHEC/HETC programs and centers throughout the United States in addressing the nation's most critical health care and health care access issues. I hope my colleagues will join me in commending all the participants in Omaha on the occasion of their national meeting, and thanking them for their service to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 9, 2006, I was unable to cast my floor votes on rollcall numbers 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249 and 250. The votes I missed included eight amendments to H.R. 5522 and the final passage of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 242, "aye" on rollcall 243, "aye" on rollcall 244, "no" on rollcall 245, "aye" on rollcall 246, "aye" on rollcall 247, "no" on rollcall 248, "aye" on rollcall 249 and "aye" on rollcall 250.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 9, 2006, I missed rollcall vote numbers 242 through 250 regarding the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Pro-

grams Appropriations Act of 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 242, "no" on rollcall 243, "yes" on rollcall 244, "no" on rollcall 245, "no" on rollcall 246, "no" on rollcall 247, "no" on rollcall 248, "no" on rollcall 249, and "yes" on rollcall 250.

THE MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased the U.S. House of Representatives is debating much needed legislation to improve mining safety across this nation. S. 2803, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006, is a compromise bill that received unanimous support in the U.S. Senate and is endorsed by industry and mining workers alike. While no legislation is perfect, this bill goes a long way to protect the brave workers who help secure America's energy needs.

The MINER Act includes a provision that is of particular importance to my home state of Utah. Section 11 of S. 2803 authorizes the establishment of an independent scientific and engineering review of belt air utilization and the composition and fire retardant properties of belt materials in underground coal mining.

Utah's situation with respect to belt air is unique. Utah's coal mines are under deep cover with greater than 1,500 feet of overburden; for enhanced safety, this requires the use of two-entry gate roads for longwall panels. This means only two tunnels lead to the longwall equipment compared to three or four tunnels leading to the longwall equipment found in most longwall mines in the East. Under such deep overburden, additional tunnels or entries would lead to unstable and unsafe conditions.

In any longwall mining system design, one of the entries must be used for the conveyor belt system to transport coal out of the mine. In Utah, where only two-entry mines are practical, both entries must be used to deliver enough fresh air to the longwall machine to properly control dust and methane to meet ventilation health standards.

Due to the importance of belt air use to Utah's mining industry, it is my hope the panel called for in the MINER Act is expeditiously convened and uses sound science to properly evaluate the use of belt air in underground coal mining.

In addition, Section 14 of S. 2803 establishes the "Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grants" program to help provide funding for education and training programs concerning safety and health topics in mines.

In my District, a consortium of local business and education interests recently announced the establishment of the Western Energy Training Center in Price, Utah with the help of a two-year Department of Labor grant. The mission of the Center is to educate and train workers to fill jobs for the mining and energy related industries, workers who are badly needed throughout the West. The Center will educate and train future workers with a focus

on improving both the technical experience of the labor force and worker commitment to safety.

The "Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grants" program is poised to become an invaluable resource for institutions like the Western Energy Training Center in improving the safety record of America's energy industry.

The MINER Act is the first substantial overhaul of our nation's mining laws in almost three decades and is an essential step to remedying the many health and safety shortfalls facing coal miners today. I urge all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to support the passage of this legislation.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House of the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5441) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, one of the most important features of America's homeland security will be our ability to preserve America's leadership in high technology and scientific research. It has been my singular privilege to know and learn from one of the greatest scientists in our Nation, Dr. Richard Smalley of Rice University, and to represent him in the United States Congress. Today I want to honor him and his family and his colleagues at Rice University by celebrating his birthday, and giving thanks to God for bringing Rick into our lives. America lost him last year to cancer, yet the extraordinary research he was pursuing into carbon nanotubes and "buckyballs" will undoubtedly one day help lead us to a cure for cancer. Rick Smalley helped me understand that nanotechnology will change our lives as profoundly in the 21st century as oil and electricity changed our lives in the 20th century, and he lit a fire in me to do everything in my power to harness the immense human, medical, technological and financial capital of the Texas Medical Center into identifying and curing human diseases and making America truly energy independent by creating the Alliance for NanoHealth. The Alliance is my single highest priority for funding with our limited tax dollars in my work on the Appropriations Committee, and I am immensely proud that I could launch the Alliance with Rick and his colleagues at Rice and at all of the great institutions of the Texas Medical Center. The Alliance is thriving, especially now that it has the final key ingredient it was lacking, a dynamic and brilliant scientist as president, Dr. Mauro Ferrari. All of the pieces are in place for the Alliance to lead the world in identifying and curing cancers at the very earliest stages before they even become visible tumors. All of the pieces are in place for the Alliance to help make America energy independent of the Middle East and the rest of the world by using the single wall carbon nanotubes Dr. Smalley discovered, and so

many other aspects of nanotechnology research and manufacturing that he pioneered. Rick Smalley will always inspire me and fill me with energy and enthusiasm to help America achieve the great dreams he saw for our future by harnessing nanotechnology. My hero Thomas Jefferson liked to say that he liked the dreams of the future better than the memories of the past, which was the way Rick Smalley lived his life. I will always honor Dr. Smalley by doing my very best to make his dreams of the future come true—an America that is energy independent, no longer reliant on fossil fuels, and where no one need suffer or die from cancer.

It is appropriate and fitting, Mr. Chairman, that I add to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a few of the tributes offered by his family and friends at his memorial service.

RICHARD E. SMALLEY: A LEGACY OF HOPE

(By Deborah S. Smalley)

I have meditated often upon the gifts that Rick has left us. And though time will tell the full story, I believe our greatest inheritance from this amazing man is hope for the future. Rick may well be remembered as the father of nanotechnology; he was certainly its rock star. He had every outstanding honor and award a chemist could earn, and his knowledge of science and the world extended far beyond his field. Who knows what applications for the betterment of humanity will come from his revolutionary research and inventions? His status as a Nobel Laureate was fascinating enough to keep me involved in a forty-five minute attempt to shake his hand during a conference at Rice University. I had no idea that as we met, my life would be changed forever.

I had taught high school science for 17 years, and sadly enough, my world view offered the students little good news for the long term future of man on earth. The problems we were facing as a growing population would almost certainly become insurmountable by the time we reached 10 billion people. I had come outside the classroom looking for answers. Dr. Richard Smalley shook my hand, and began to fill my mind with a vision of a clean world with abundant energy. He had a plan, and it gave hope. He opened the door to a new world of plenty and set the rod by which we must measure our efforts. He showed that there was a way; thereby placing the burden for action squarely on our shoulders. We can ignore it, but cannot plead ignorance. The prophet had spoken.

He told me that the means for gaining that future were just out of reach, but doable. Who knows, perhaps this is the very blessing we needed most. If he had done it for us, or if we could shift the responsibility to someone else, then we would miss the opportunity to demonstrate the magnificent qualities deeply imbedded within us all; those beautiful giftings that shine forth in times of great challenge.

In order to bring forth the spirit that can pull us from complacency and self-focus into the higher realm of courage, honor, and altruism we need clear vision coupled with the opportunity for action. Rick gave us all of that. By making his solution inclusive, everyone became a player. None of us can in good consciousness sit back assuming that someone more talented, capable, or concerned will take care of it. There is an enormous need to empower Americans so that we will take charge of our circumstances and make a difference in this world. Rick recognized energy as the one issue touching every single one of us every day, and put out an alert for children to "be a scientist and save the world." I saw him give the message to over seven hundred children, from sixth to

twelfth grades, at-risk to honors. They were so attentive, you could hear a pin drop.

A hopeless future instills in our youth a sense of urgency to serve themselves; an attitude devastating to their character and spirit. But when a great scientist, a trusted son with a Nobel Prize says we can supply energy for 10 billion people, thereby making possible at least a reasonable standard of living for all God's children, our faith is stirred, and the impossible is slowly supplanted by the possibilities. We need our children, all of them, to be involved in the making of a whole new era. Science and engineering does produce the technology that sets the stage for building our world, and this vision of a world where we can address shortages that lead to poverty, war, disease, and ignorance through an abundance of clean energy, gives hope.

When I finally got my turn to meet Dr. Richard Smalley, he was clearly excited by my profession as a science teacher. I still remember the intensity of his blue eyes as he told me that our biggest problems were solvable, but that he needed my students filled with a sense of mission and purpose to create a new future, and then asked me if I thought they were up for the challenge. In that moment, I fell irrevocably in love—in love with the vision, in love with the passion, and in love with the man who brought hope to our world, our children and to me.

[From Science Magazine, Dec. 23, 2005]

RICHARD E. SMALLEY (1943-2005)

(By W. Wade Adams and Ray H. Baughman)

Richard Errett Smalley, who died on 28 October 2005 after a 7-year fight with cancer, unselfishly used his stature and wisdom to inspire a worldwide nanotechnology revolution. His breakthroughs, his inexhaustible enthusiasm for exciting young people about science, and his awakening the world to possible nanotech solution to the energy crisis have left an enduring legacy. In only 40 years of applying his powerful intellect to science and technology, his work led to entirely new types of materials and fields of study, revolutionary apparatus for scientific investigations and commercialization, and a deep understanding of behavior on nano and molecular scales. Along the way he shared the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize in Chemistry for codiscovering the soccer-ball shaped C₆₀ fullerene molecule.

Born in Akron, Ohio, on 6 June 1943, Smalley's interest in science began in his early teens as he and his mother collected single-cell organisms from a local pond and studied them with a microscope. He learned from his father how to build and fix mechanical and electrical equipment and from his mother mechanical drawing, so that he could be more systematic in design work. Many decades later, Rick's passion for creative design was still evident on his office walls—diagrams showing his most recent improvements on equipment for producing carbon nanotubes. Although his contributions to physics and engineering were landmarks, chemistry was his first love. The detailed periodic table of the elements that he drew on rafters in the attic where he studied as a youngster marked his early fascination with chemistry.

He pursued this love, from undergraduate studies at Hope College and the University of Michigan to the Shell Chemical Company, where he worked as a quality control chemist in a polypropylene plant. Rick said, "These were fascinating days, involving huge volumes of material, serious real-world problems, with large financial consequences." He learned about industrial-scale processes and the importance of efficient catalysts, which were useful much later when he initiated