

first lay principal at a Catholic secondary school in Missouri. Jim was principal until 1992, when he became Helias' first Chief Administrator. In 1997 he became the first Director of Development for Helias High School and Executive Director of the Helias Foundations. On May 1, 1998, the newly constructed Field House was named the James L. Rackers Field House in honor of his years of dedication and loyalty to Helias High School.

Along with his successful career, Mr. Rackers was an active member of St. Peter Catholic Church and was also a member of numerous professional and community organizations. Mr. Rackers was a member in the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals, North Central Association, National Catholic Education Association, Committee on Accredited Schools Non-Public, and the Missouri Council for American Private Education. He received numerous awards; including the 1991 Communicator of the Year Award from the Public Relations Society of America, 1997 Immaculate Conception Outstanding Alumni Award, 1997 Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding services to students in Support of Vocational Education at Nichols Career Center, and 25 year Silver Service Award of the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals.

Mr. Speaker, James Lee Rackers was a valuable leader in all aspects of his life. He was a genuine human being who would do anything for anyone. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Nancy; his three sons, Dennis, John, and Timothy; his daughter Maureen; and all of his grandchildren.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 2006, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes Nos. 289, 290, and 291.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 289, 290, and 291.

TRIBUTE TO ESSAY WINNER, MISS KATIE HORTON

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, every year in my district, I ask students in grades 8th and 12th to participate in an essay contest. This year's contest focused on the issue of protecting our Nation from terrorism.

I am pleased that so many students chose to enter this essay contest. Unfortunately, however, there can only be one winner in each group: 8th grade and 12th grade. This year's 8th grade winner was Sean Doherty from Elmhurst, Illinois. He attends St. Charles Borromeo School in Bensenville, Illinois. The 12th grade winner was Katie Horton from

Addison Trail High School. She lives in Addison, Illinois.

This is Miss Katie Horton's essay, entitled: "How does the Homeland Security Agency protect us from Terrorism?" is as follows:

Terrorism is an epidemic that continues to spread throughout the world. In the United States, terrorism is a danger that the government and its people must face everyday. The government works hard to expand its knowledge of terrorist activities and to protect America from terrorist attacks. It is crucial for the government, and the people of the United States to identify ways to reduce the threat of terrorism.

This can occur in many ways, including more background checks of people who enter this country, more security at our borders, increasing intelligence gathering in countries that support terrorists, make it easy, or offer rewards, for citizen's to report suspected terrorist activities, educating people on what to look for, and working with other countries governments to eliminate the threat of terrorism.

A group that has been on everyone's mind lately is the terrorist group called al-Qaeda. The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks has stated that al-Qaeda is responsible for many terrorist attacks against the citizens, the government, and military forces of the United States and many other locations around the world (Wikipedia). Osama bin Laden is one of the founders of the al-Qaeda organization and has been held responsible for the September 11th attacks and many other attacks world wide.

The Department of Homeland Security is trying hard everyday to make terrorist movements a thing of the past. The department follows a six-point agenda. The first point is to increase overall preparedness. Since the terrorist attack on 9-11, the United States has increased security in all government and government related buildings and has better prepared and trained employees to know what to do in case of a terrorist attack. The second point is to create better transportation security systems. Since 9-11, the government has increased security at all airports, train stations, and subways. The third point is to strengthen border security to enforce immigration laws. The American government does not want anyone entering the United States who could be a threat to the American public. Currently, the government is trying to enact laws to make sure that illegal immigrants are either departed or are on a path to become legal U.S. citizens. The fourth point is to enhance information sharing among partners. This point helps establish better communication because that is a key to stay safe. When all anti-terrorist groups combine and share information it becomes possible for the groups to protect one another. The fifth point is to improve financial management, human resources and to improve technology. This point helps the government continue to fight terrorist to the best of its ability. The sixth, and last point, is to realign the Department of Homeland Security organization to maximize mission performance. There needs to be more communication between the different divisions of Homeland Security so good decisions are made and we have the greatest chance of stopping terrorists before they strike (Department of Homeland Security).

As a way to help stop terrorism, the government passed the Patriot Act. The Patriot Act is an act to help protect people against terrorism. There are many parts to this act. The act allows law enforcement to gather information on the criminals and their supporters, destroy immediate dangers, and to plan arrests, before letting the terrorist know. This allows the government to convict

the terrorists before they have time to leave the scene of the crime. The act also allows investigators to receive business records in order to convict terrorists. For example, they can receive records from banks to see who the people are that are aiding the terrorists. The Patriot Act allows investigators to receive search warrants to search not only where the terrorist act was carried out, but also where the terrorist act was planned. Also, the government now punishes people who house terrorists, punishes terrorists who attack transit systems, and also punishes bioterrorists (Department of Justice).

Even though the United States has many precautions against terrorists, many more can be put into place. Traveling by airplane is a very common way of transportation. America has done a lot to secure the safety of the airplane passengers, yet more can be done. Airlines must train their attendants to be aware of terrorists and be prepared with knowledge of what to do once a terrorist is encountered. Individual pilots must think of ways to have flight attendants alert them when they sense signs of danger and airlines must also provide a way to alert the airport of possible dangers without the attacker knowing. Also, Requirements for passports should be changed. A thorough background check should be done before one can receive a passport. Thousands of people come to the United States each year. The border patrol needs to be stricter on who they let into the United States. By controlling who is allowed to enter the U.S. many job opportunities would be created. It would cost a lot of money, but would save lives. Many people come to the United States on a one-month visa for education or work. The government needs to pay attention to these people to make sure they are not staying longer than they are supposed to. People should be forced to check in periodically and provide contact information so the government can ensure that they are still legally in this country. If people cannot provide this information, they should not be allowed into the country or should be deported immediately. Another option would be to issue a national identity card, much like a state drivers license so that any policeman, citizen, could verify if the person is in the country legally.

The government handles many pressures every day and should be rewarded for that. Yet, government officials must always stay on top of things and communicate with all levels of government while keeping up with current technology. America is a truly an amazing country with a lot more potential.

RECOGNIZING HARRY BROERMANN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Harry Broermann. Over the past 70 years, Harry has served dutifully as a member and Leader in Missouri 4-H. Harry joined the Farmer City 4-H Club as a young boy and has continued his service to the organization over the last 70 years.

In taking over the leadership of the Farmer City 4-H Club that was founded by his father, Harry and his wife served over hundreds of children and young adults in Northwest Missouri. Harry led the organization in the completion of service projects, organization of social functions, and has attended meetings all throughout Missouri. With a passion for history and genealogy, Harry has been instrumental