

grants are needed each year to begin to make real progress toward improved treatments and, eventually, a cure.

There are an average of 17,000 people living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis in every congressional district—estimate based on 2000 Census Data/Census apportionment population with the average size of a congressional district of 646,952 and prevalence rate of 2.6 percent. Approximately 320,000 people are affected by psoriasis in Pennsylvania.

Fortunately, we have two support groups in Pennsylvania affiliated with the National Psoriasis Foundation. I am pleased that my constituents have a welcome and knowledgeable support group to help them know they need not face their disease without help. Support group interaction and discussion provides individuals affected by this debilitating disease with much-needed comfort, assistance and resources. The work of the support groups in Pennsylvania is invaluable, and I commend the efforts of those involved.

I thank the National Psoriasis Foundation for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 38 years and am grateful to the foundation and its members for their ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life of people who have psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Moreover, I thank the constituents, Kathleen Brickley, Carl and Sandy Christofano, Eileen Gallant and Lara Wine Lee, who visited my Washington, DC, office earlier this year to educate me and my staff about the challenges associated with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. This year, the National Psoriasis Foundation had nearly 100 participants join in its Capitol Hill Day to elevate awareness and understanding of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and have policymakers take action to address access to care and boost the Nation's research efforts.

Too many people suffer needlessly from psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis due to incorrect or delayed diagnosis, inadequate treatment options, and/or insufficient access to care. I stand ready to work with my constituents and the National Psoriasis Foundation to help elevate the importance of expanding psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research and ensuring access to care and treatment for this disease. I urge my colleagues to learn more about psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, to take action to support their affected constituents and to support the National Psoriasis Foundation in its important endeavors.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TOPEKA HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

**HON. JIM RYUN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th Anniversary of the Topeka High School building. Topeka High is the largest high school in the Kansas capital, with more than 2,000 students in the student body. It is also a focal point of pride for the entire community.

Most recognized by its 165-foot bell tower, the school owes its gothic architecture to Chester Woodward, a local financier and bibliophile, who led the Board of Education during the school's construction. At least three British

landmarks inspired the Troy campus, including Henry VIII's Great Hall at Hampton Court Palace and the College Tower of Magdalen College, Oxford.

But the school's gothic architecture is not its only notable feature. Topeka High also has a unique relationship with the Navy's oldest warship, the U.S.S. *Constitution*, "Old Ironsides." Its cross jack spar is the school's main flagpole on THS Constitution Plaza. In June 2005, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

More important than the physical structure though, are the men and women who have taught and studied at Topeka High School since its doors opened in 1871. Over 40,000 students have proudly worn the colors of black and gold since then. Its alumni include a Vice President of the United States, a U.S. Senator, a university president, a Fortune 500 CEO, a World War II fighter pilot, and four Rhodes Scholars among many other distinguished alumni.

Like any venerable institution, Topeka High School's faculty and student body has earned numerous awards. Topeka High has boasted numerous State and National champions in debate, forensics, Junior ROTC drill, music, foreign language, math, and athletic competitions. As an institution, THS has previously been recognized with the Bellamy Flag Award as best school in the State, and the U.S. Department of Education recognized Topeka High in 1989 as a School of Excellence.

So on the occasion of this 75th Anniversary, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize the students, teachers, and administrators of Topeka High School. The school continues to be a cornerstone of the Topeka community. It is my hope that we can honor the legacy of those who have created this great school by committing to the education of the next generation of leaders for Topeka, Kansas, and the Nation.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 6061, SECURE FENCE ACT  
OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I am committed to using my best informed judgment in deciding how I vote on each bill that comes before the House of Representatives.

My goal for securing the borders is to provide the U.S. Border Patrol with the right tools, assets, including fences and vehicle barriers, equipment, and number of agents to interdict every person trying to illegally cross into our country. We should approach meeting this goal in a systematic and thoughtful process. In my judgment, The Secure Fence Act does not do this.

The first step is to thoroughly analyze what is needed along all of our borders to meet our goal. At a minimum, the Border Patrol should be asked to provide us with what they think in their professional judgment is needed to do their job. The Secure Fence Act starts this type of analysis as it relates to the northern and maritime borders with the requirement that the Department of Homeland Security

spend the next year developing a rational program for meeting our goal as it relates to these borders. As for the southern border, the bill simply requires that 700 miles of fencing be built at locations fixed by the bill by May 2008.

The bill set the amount of fencing for the southern border at 700 miles without properly consulting the Border Patrol, who knows best where a fence is needed. A proper analysis of the problem may show that we actually need 1,000 miles or it may show us that only 500 miles is needed to secure the border. In addition to knowing how much fencing is needed and where the fencing will be most effective, we should know how much the fencing is going to cost. At the time of the vote, the Congressional Budget Office had not determined how much the fencing and the other mandates in the bill are going to cost. While cost is not necessarily determinative of whether we should proceed, nevertheless it is an important consideration that should have been known before we voted on the bill.

The bill designates specifically where the fencing is to be built in Texas. The communities where the fence is mandated to be constructed should have some input into this bill before the law was passed. Also, most of the border between Texas and Mexico is private property. We should have known what impact that will have on the cost of constructing the fence as well as how much of the property might have to be taken via eminent domain proceedings.

One final note Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important to try, although we are rarely successful, to work with members of the other party when we are developing public policy. Congressman SILVESTRE REYES, a former Border Patrol sector chief from El Paso, voted against the bill, as did Congressmen HENRY CUELLAR, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, and SOLOMON ORTIZ, all of whom represent parts of the border.

Mr. Speaker, I remain fully committed to securing the border. I am also committed to achieving that goal in the best and most cost effective manner possible. I will continue to work with my colleagues on securing our borders in the weeks ahead. It is important that we get it done as quickly as possible, but simply throwing up a costly fence without the proper planning is not the answer.

IN HONOR OF MS. LISA  
BLUNT-BRADLEY

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Lisa Blunt-Bradley in recognition of her service as president and CEO of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League.

The Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, MWUL, actively works to assist the disproportionate number of African-American, Latino, and other ethnic populations who remain susceptible to wide-ranging disparities in income and educational attainment for themselves and their children. Under Lisa's leadership, the MWUL has built opportunities for people of color by setting the tone of the public policy

discourse, engaging in principled advocacy, and creating strong community partnerships.

In 2004, Ms. Blunt-Bradley became President of the MWUL and under her leadership the organization successfully implemented the Achievement Matters Education Program. The Achievement Matters Campaign is an academic achievement initiative that will provide community and school-based interventions for children in Wilmington from grade 6 through to graduation. The program is designed to provide underprivileged children with the skills they will need to be competitive in the job market of tomorrow.

Ms. Blunt-Bradley's successful career did not begin at the MWUL; she has a long legacy of successful advocacy work. The American Council of Young Political Leaders honored Ms. Blunt-Bradley with the Gary L. McPherson Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003. Additionally, prior to working at the MWUL, Ms. Blunt-Bradley served as Secretary of Labor and Deputy Secretary of Health and Social Services for the State of Delaware. In those roles she oversaw the day-to-day management of the largest agency in the State of Delaware with approximately 4,500 employees. Her supervisory responsibilities included providing services to individuals with disabilities, and providing emergency shelter for the homeless. In addition, as the State agency's liaison to the Delaware General Assembly, she worked on issues such as child support enforcement legislation and regulation of managed healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to once again commend Ms. Blunt-Bradley on her success while at the helm of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League. Lisa's constant professionalism, tireless leadership, and appetite for hard work have improved the lives of countless children and adults in Wilmington and throughout the State of Delaware.

IN HONOR OF 15TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ARMENIA'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the nation of Armenia and all people of Armenian descent. Today marks the 15th anniversary of Armenia's independence, and is a proud day for the people of a country that has struggled for so long and succeeded so greatly.

The mass killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire was the first genocide of the 20th century. I am proud that the United States stood by as an ally to Armenia at that time and has continued to do so throughout the last century. During the cold war, the United States championed the rights of the Armenian people to be independent, and was one of the first countries to recognize that independence in 1991.

As one of the first countries in post Soviet Union Europe to embrace the ideals of freedom and democracy, Armenia has taken great strides down the path of democratic change and development. All of this has been done in the shadow of the great adversity that these proud people have endured. Over the last fifteen years the Armenians have proven their commitment to democratic values and a secure and stable Caspian region.

My district in California is home to thousands of Armenians who I am grateful to have worked with and become friends with during my time in Congress. They, and all Armenian people, deserve our most heartfelt congratulations on this momentous anniversary.

FISHING RULES TAKE THEIR TOLL

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in my representation of the City of New Bedford, I have of course spent a significant amount of time on matters affecting the fishing industry that is so vitally important to that community, economically, culturally, and in every other relevant way. In doing so, I have benefited from the wisdom and experience of a number of people involved in the fishing industry, one of whom is Deb Shrader, the executive director of an excellent organization called Shore Support Inc.

As part of a very useful series that the New Bedford Standard Times is carrying on the fishing industry, Deb Shrader published an article in the Standard Times for September 20, which gives an excellent summary of the difficult economic position in which current fishing policy puts so many hardworking people and their families. I hope my colleagues will read this because they will understand why I am working as hard as I am for amendments to the Magnuson Act, which will thoroughly recognize the legitimate economic interests of people in the fishing industry and will do so in ways that do not jeopardize any valid environmental concerns.

Mr. Speaker, no one should be voting on fishing issues without having a full understanding of the matters that Deb Shrader discusses so well, and for that reason I ask that her article from the Wednesday, September 20, Standard Times be printed here.

[From the Standard Times, Sept. 20, 2006]

FISHING RULES TAKE THEIR TOLL

(By Deb Shrader)

How fishing regulations affect the people in a fishing community is nearly a taboo subject. Though the Magnuson Act of 1976 requires that the social and economic impact of fishing regulations be studied, in fact the impacts are rarely measured, the information that is gathered is considered anecdotal or it's ignored. Measuring the cumulative effects of these omissions is impossible, much like retracing the steps of a dinosaur after their extinction.

Presently, Shore Support, Inc. is working with UMass Dartmouth and its School for Marine Science and Technology, and economics Professor Dan Georgianna, to study the most recent effects of regulations on groundfishermen. We have been meeting with fishermen, aboard their boats, to talk with them. I recently spoke with members of a crew who, after spending 10 days at sea, working two nine-hour shifts with three hours rest in between, came home to a paycheck of \$750. If you work out the 18 hour day, multiply by 10, and then divide the \$750 by the 180 hours worked, these fishermen worked for well below minimum wage at about \$4 an hour. The high cost of fuel, coupled with the low prices for fish make me wonder why they still "go down to the sea in ships," and I'm not afraid to ask that question of groundfishermen. The answer is usually that they are fishermen through and

through, and with most of the men in their mid to late forties, the idea of starting at the bottom of a ladder in a new trade is more than depressing. They are used to the unique lifestyle of commercial fishing with its sense of independence, competitiveness and chance to work close to nature.

In 2005, Professor Georgianna and I published a study called "Employment, Income and Working Conditions in New Bedford's Offshore Fisheries." As part of this study, we visited and spoke with the captains and crews from more than half of the offshore scallop and groundfish boats that call New Bedford home port, and are 50 feet or longer.

In this study, working with fishermen and settlement houses, we put a human perspective on the industry. After meeting with crew from more than 200 boats, we found that the workers in the industry are rapidly aging. The average age of a scalloper is 40 with 19 years at sea; the average age of a groundfisherman is 46 with an average of 26 years at sea. These fishermen are professionals with many years of experience, in some cases more than half their lives. During our entire process, we spoke with only four groundfishermen who were 25 years old or younger. We attribute this to the fact that fishing is so very dangerous, that considering the difficulties and insecurities created by a regulatory system, young men are not choosing to fill their father's boots, a practice in previous generations that has kept our port so strong. In fact, many fishermen discourage their children from joining them on the boats. Instead, they discourage their sons from being involved in an industry that has become too complicated and laden with bureaucracy.

It has been predicted that the Port of New Bedford will lose approximately \$15 million due to the changes presented in the most recent Framework 42 (a framework is a process for amending a fisheries plan) of the groundfish regulatory system. Please keep in mind that because we have an offshore fleet, our boats are larger and carry more men than some of the coastal fisheries in other areas. Each groundfishing boat carries three to five men. At the end of each fishing trip, the boat owner and crew split the proceeds. The boat owner usually gets 50 percent of the value of the fish caught, while the crew splits the remaining 50 percent (after expenses like fuel, food, and ice are deducted). Each groundfishing boat represents four to six families' incomes. If this community loses \$15 million in commerce from these regulatory changes, \$7.5 million will be removed from fishermen and their families, which has a wider spread effect than a corporate loss. This would mean \$7.5 million less to pay mortgages and auto loans held by local banks, less to buy groceries in local markets and home goods at the local mall. If you think this crisis will not affect you because you are not involved in this noble industry, you are wrong. These types of losses in a community with rampant unemployment will be devastating to all.

New Bedford is also one of the last great ports as far as what is available for shoreside support industries. The failing of the industry in Gloucester, and other smaller ports, has already caused a collapse of the net makers, dredge builders, welders, ice makers, chandlers, and other support industries in those ports. New Bedford has become one of the last remaining sources for supplies and labor on which all the boats depend. The big question is whether these crucial support industries will survive this regulatory process. Many of these are small businesses and are presently carrying a great deal of debt owed by the boat owners who have a difficult time