

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