

Cody is the first student in the Highland Public School district who has maintained perfect attendance for all thirteen years. I am asking Congress to join me in recognizing this amazing young man, who despite hardships, has already accomplished so much in his academic career. Although he will be graduating with a diploma this spring, I'm positive this is just the beginning of many other successes to come in his future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
W.O. MOZINGO

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the memory of W.O. Mazingo.

Before moving to Mobile, "Mo" as he was known to his friends, joined the U.S. Army during World War II and served in the 65th Infantry Division of the European Theatre. He led a mine platoon, locating and disarming land mines. He was wounded in action and became a Disabled American Veteran and lifetime member of the VFW, Post 49.

Considered by many to be the father of the labor movement in southwest Alabama, Mr. Mazingo began his career with the former National City Bus Line in Mobile and joined the Amalgamated Transit Union Local No. 770 in 1943. He served in various capacities as a union member, including 20 years as president and 19 years as president of the Southwest Alabama Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

It goes without saying that Mr. Mazingo was well known throughout the Mobile community. He served on numerous boards of directors, including the American Red Cross, Volunteers of America, the United Way of Southwest Alabama, Mobile United, South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, and the Advisory Board for Springhill Memorial Hospital. Mr. Mazingo was also a lifelong Democrat. In 1999, the Mobile County Democratic Party awarded him the Democratic Award of Distinction.

Mr. Mazingo's awards were also just as numerous. In 1992, he was inducted into the Alabama Organized Labor Awards Foundation Hall of Fame. The Southwest Alabama Labor Council, AFL-CIO, honored him by creating an annual award known as the "W.O. Mazingo Community Services Award." He earned the distinction of being one of only five Mobilians to achieve Emeritus status with the United Way board.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. W.O. "Mo" Mazingo will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of sixty eight years, Myrtle LaBarreare Mazingo; their three children, William Gary Mazingo, Linda Mazingo Murphy, and John W. Mazingo; his sister, Josephine Beddingfield; three grandchildren; and two great grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

SUPPORTING H.R. 362 AND H.R. 363

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise to show my strong and enthusiastic support for H.R. 362 and H.R. 363. Both of these bills are extremely timely and worthwhile pieces of legislation that will provide much needed assistance to my constituents, and to the country as a whole.

As we advance forward in this new century, it is of the utmost importance that we prepare our young people for the challenges that lay ahead. Addressing issues such as global climate change and making our nation more energy efficient require that we train our students to become the scientists, mathematicians, and engineers of the future.

In the district that I represent, families are yearning for more schools that focus on math and science. Such curriculums offer greater opportunities to help prepare our students to attend college and graduate school in these areas and to secure jobs in the new millennium in the fields of biofuels, biotechnology, and biodefense.

I have personally been involved in trying to secure more funding to address these concerns and bring science and math-oriented schools into my district.

Additionally, with the selection of Chicago as a potential host for the 2016 Olympics, our great city will need to fulfill the demand for more civil engineers, technicians, and architects. We will need to construct new buildings, roads, and stadiums, and we would like to utilize the limitless talent of Illinois' most skilled and well trained mathematicians, scientists and engineers.

H.R. 362 and H.R. 363 will help address the needs of my community, as well as the many challenges that this great country faces. I urge all of my colleagues to support these bills.

TRIBUTE TO THE LACKAWANNA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. CARNEY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lackawanna Historical Society and their commitment to celebrating the coal-mining heritage of Pennsylvania.

The Lackawanna Historical Society is proud to be partners with the Olyphant Coal Miners Association in a visionary project to celebrate the heritage of coal miners in Pennsylvania. On Father's Day, June 17, 2007, they will unveil a monument to honor the mid-valley miners who worked to fuel the world's energy supply in Olyphant collieries.

These dedicated individuals worked to supply anthracite coal and energy to others. In doing so, some lost their lives. It is fitting that we remember their sacrifice, and this monument is a just and proper way to do so.

The monument will feature a bronze statue with a stainless steel pick, crafted by local sculptor Frank "Wyso" Wysochansky. The monument will be placed in Olyphant. This is an appropriate place to honor all miners from the Mid-Valley due to its central location. This memorial will remind everyone of the dedication and sacrifice of the coal miners of Mid-Valley, Pennsylvania.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Lackawanna Historical Society and the Olyphant Coal Miners Association, and all the citizens of Pennsylvania who lost their lives helping to fuel the world's energy supply.

RECOGNIZING THE BIRTHDAY AND
LIFE OF SUGAR RAY ROBINSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the birth of Walker Smith Jr., a boxing phenomenon, whose boxing style was so smooth and sweet that he earned the nickname "Sugar Ray."

Sugar Ray Robinson was born Walker Smith Junior on May 3, 1921 in Ailey, Georgia. His family relocated to Harlem, New York to escape the racial injustice of the South when he was just 12 years old.

After a few years of living in Harlem, he was introduced to the sport of boxing. Since he was too young to register, he borrowed a registration card from his friend, Ray Robinson. He used his name to begin boxing under the Amateur Athletic Union. His boxing style was unique and drew crowds. A boxing coach, George Gainford, thought his style was sweet as sugar and others agreed. Thus, he was called Sugar Ray Robinson.

It was his unique style that made him a boxing legend. It all began in 1940, when he won the New York Golden Gloves championship. He was just 19 years old. Immediately after that victory, he became a professional boxer. By 1946, he became the world welterweight champion, a title he held for 5 years winning 91 straight matches. His success continued when he entered the middleweight division. He held the middleweight title five times from 1951 to 1960. He retired from boxing in November of 1965 after his last fight. His outstanding boxing record includes a total of 202 professional fights of which he won 175, and during his career he came to define boxing as "the sweet sacrifice."

Due to health conditions, he passed away on April 12, 1989, at the age of 67. He was elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1967 and created a foundation for youth in California. A postage stamp was created in his honor in 2006. I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 359, recognizing the athletic achievements and commitment to young people of this great American boxer.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAMELA
CLANCY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pamela Clancy who is receiving the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award.

Pamela has over 20 years experience in the nursing profession and presently serves as director of all Spring Valley Medical/Surgery Nursing Units. In addition to her professional competence, Pamela is a very caring individual and goes above and beyond to help patients feel at home. She is most known around the hospital for helping a couple put on a wedding when the groom became ill and had no way of rescheduling the ceremony. Pamela was also instrumental in the opening of the Joint and Spine Center and has received the service excellence award where she was the star champion employee of the month.

In addition to her professional successes, Pamela is also very active in a number of philanthropic and charitable organizations. She volunteers at her church, Walk for a Cure, March of Dimes, the Spring Valley Hospital Health Fair, and the MDA yard sale as well as health screenings.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Pamela Clancy. Her professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend her efforts and commitment and congratulate her on receiving the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award and applaud her efforts.

IMPROVING HEAD START ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1429) to reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1429, The Improving Head Start Act of 2007. As a key initiative in President Johnson's "Great Society," Head Start has been one of our Nation's most important educational programs. Since its creation in 1965, Head Start has served more than 20 million children and has focused and redefined its approach to assisting disadvantaged children in their social, physical and educational growth.

As one of two remaining Members of the House who helped pass the original Head Start bill, I am pleased that after 4 years of deadlock between the House and Senate this program finally will be reauthorized. Democrats are once again showing the American public that Congress is back at work addressing our Nation's critical domestic needs.

Americans know what a huge difference early childhood education can make in a

child's development; they understand that early childhood education needs to be a national priority. Evidence of this can be seen in the congressionally-mandated Impact Study that found that after less than one school year, Head Start narrowed the achievement gap by 45 percent in pre-reading and by 28 percent in pre-writing. The long-term impact of these programs is also clearly demonstrated in the high percentage of low-income children who participated in Head Start and were subsequently more likely to be developmentally on par with their peers in kindergarten, to behave well in class, succeed in school and ultimately to graduate.

By passing H.R. 1429 today, we will also increase classroom and teacher quality and make use of the latest science to strengthen Head Start. The new teacher qualifications in the Improving Head Start Act require that 50 percent of Head Start teachers nationwide have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in early childhood education or a related field by 2013. It also directs the majority of new funds in the bill to program improvement activities, including significant new funds to increase teacher salaries. Furthermore, this reauthorization will require that all Head Start programs use research-based practices to support the growth of children's pre-literacy and vocabulary skills and improve professional development and classroom practices to better support children's cognitive, social and emotional development.

Our Nation has long recognized that education should be a universal right to all, regardless of race, religion or socioeconomic status. I am pleased to stand with Chairman MILLER, Subcommittee Chairman KILDEE and Subcommittee Ranking Member CASTLE in improving America's education system by voting for H.R. 1429.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall votes 273, 274 and 275 taken on May 2, 2007. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted "nay" on these measures.

REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS PRIORITIES AD-
DRESSED IN H.R. 1591 "U.S.
TROOP READINESS, VETERANS'
HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNT-
ABILITY ACT"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise to express my profound disappointment that the President lacked the vision, wisdom, and respect for the will of the American people to sign H.R. 1591, the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act." This legislation, which was crafted under the combined leader-

ship of the Speaker and Democratic Caucus, Appropriations Committee Chairman OBEY and Defense Subcommittee Chairman MURTHA, with substantial input from the Congressional Black Caucus, provided a glide path to the day when our troops can return home where we can "care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan." But it did more than that. It also would help to repair the damage to America's international reputation and prestige and bring long overdue oversight, accountability, and transparency to defense and reconstruction contracting and procurement.

Madam Speaker, the American taxpayers have paid nearly \$400 billion to finance the misadventure in Iraq. I stand with the 3,222 fallen heroes who stand even taller in death because they gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. And I am reminded that while it is the armed forces which do the fighting, it is a Nation that goes to war. And it is the costs to the Nation that I wish to speak about today.

Madam Speaker, it must be noted that the cost of the war in Iraq to the United States has also been high regarding the new and neglected needs of the American people. Americans have been exceedingly tolerant and patient with this Administration's handling of the situation in Iraq. We have postponed, foregone, or neglected needed investments in education, infrastructure, housing, homeland security.

That is why it is right and good and just that the new Democratic majority included in the supplemental appropriations bill for Iraq and Afghanistan \$4.3 billion for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster recovery grants, including \$910 million to cover the cost of waiving the matching fund requirements in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 174 (Public Law 93-288) (Stafford Act) for state and local government meaning the Federal government will finance 100% of the grants.

Waiving the Stafford Act's matching fund requirement is critically important to the Gulf Coast states devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Based on my multiple listening trips to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region, and my numerous meetings and discussions with government officials at all levels in the affected states and with survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many of whom now are relocated to my Houston congressional district, the most important lesson I have learned is that the Stafford Act is in its present form is simply inadequate to address the scale of devastation and human suffering wrought by a disaster the magnitude of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I thank Mr. OBEY and Mr. MURTHA for responding to concerns I expressed to President Bush about the need to modernize the Stafford Act so that it remains relevant to the 21st Century.

I believe the Stafford Act must be amended to grant the Federal Government explicit authority and flexibility to provide long-term recovery assistance to communities devastated by disasters of the magnitude of Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Such authority currently does not exist and the Stafford Act's emphasis on temporary assistance to affected individuals and communities is simply inadequate to address the scope of human suffering we witnessed last August and which is still with us