

I understand that the Lord needed him, not only did He take my big brother, He took my best friend. Nic, I'll see you on the court!

Please join me in a moment of silence for Nic Riehl, and for his family's courage in his loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF 2007 NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, National Teacher Appreciation Day provides us with a special opportunity to reflect on the importance of the teacher in our society and to note with deep appreciation the incalculable contribution that teachers have made to the educational and personal development of our citizenry.

It has been said that half of us is what we make of ourselves and the other half is made by others. There can be little doubt that "the rest of us" is profoundly and powerfully influenced by our teachers. Teachers affect our lives in significant ways—they guide our acquisition of knowledge, they facilitate our personal growth and they stimulate the development of our personalities and our imaginations. In short, they inspire us to be our greater selves.

Our greatest and most successful citizens and achievers have been molded and encouraged by their teachers. Conversely, where there is a failure to educate and inspire—where our young people don't have the guidance of good teachers—the consequences are clear, both in the short and long term.

In the United States today, our teachers hold the fortunes and futures of millions of children and young persons and, by extension, the fortune and future of our Nation as a whole. I am especially aware of this fact as a member of the Education and Labor Committee which is charged with examining the issues for reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. As the 110th Congress moves toward reauthorizing this legislation, we have sought to involve the teachers at every stage in the development of the plan. Second to our children, our Nation's teachers are the most important stakeholders in the future of NCLB.

As we observe National Teacher Appreciation Week, 2007, I would like to congratulate all teachers for continuing to give their best in the noble task of educating the children of our Nation.

IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL AND WITHDRAWAL BILLS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today's votes on the Iraq supplemental with benchmarks and the Iraqi withdrawal bill are important steps as congressional Democrats do everything we can to reverse the President's disastrous Iraq policy.

I support the vote to withdraw troops because it is consistent with the comprehensive legislation I introduced, "The New Direction in Iraq Act" and the supplemental because it is a way to keep the pressure on the President. Support for the continued occupation of Iraq is fraying, as Republicans have started to say in private what the American people started realizing long ago.

I have opposed the war from the start, and these votes hasten the day when we bring the tragedy of the Iraq war to a close. I will continue to do everything in my power to end this tragic chapter in our history.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PETE TORRES, JR., 1933–2007

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of a true pioneer and champion of the common man. Pete Torres, Jr., was a great man who played a vital role in ensuring that everyone had a voice in their government. Mr. Torres passed away on Friday, April 27, 2007 at the age of 73. He was a friend, mentor, and inspiration to many in San Antonio, and he will be missed.

It was the late 1960s when Mr. Torres made history in south Texas and San Antonio. Mr. Carlos Guerra of the San Antonio Express-News best described the climate and challenges that Mr. Torres faced.

"In the 1960s, virtually every South Texas city and town was firmly in the grip of some chamber-backed clique that was neither attuned to the concerns of regular people nor particularly interested in letting minority people speak for themselves."

"San Antonio was hardly the exception," said Guerra.

It was this climate in which Mr. Torres broke down barriers for the common man and took the San Antonio City Council by storm in 1967. At a time when the city council was run by a select group of privileged citizens who in no way accurately reflected the diversity and dynamic of the city of San Antonio, Mr. Torres was an agent of change. His election to the San Antonio City Council taught all of south Texas a lesson in governing by advocating for causes that benefited the majority of San Antonio's people, not a select few.

While he served as a member of the San Antonio's City Council for 4 short years, his impact transcended generations and is still felt today. After his public service career, he continued to represent the disenfranchised and vulnerable as an attorney who was respected and beloved by all. He will forever be remembered as a pioneer and champion of causes for the common man and minorities. While he will be missed, his legacy will live on and the extraordinary contributions he made to south Texas and San Antonio will never be forgotten.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF GEORGE DUNKLIN, SR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. George Dunklin, Sr., who passed away May 5, 2007, in Pine Bluff, AR, at the age of 89.

Mr. Dunklin had two passions in life—farming and tennis. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he returned to Arkansas where he helped run the family business, Planters Cotton Oil Mill, until he retired in 2005 as president after 66 years. He was the 1975 president of the National Cottonseed Association, Member of the Cotton Advisory Committee to the U.S. Agriculture Department Secretary and he received the 1990 Harvey W. McGeorge Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture, among other honors.

When Mr. Dunklin was not working on behalf of farmers across the country, he could be found on the tennis court. His love for the sport of tennis took him around the world. Not only was he the Arkansas State Men's Tennis Champion a record nine times, but he also played in two Grand Slam tournaments, the French Open and the U.S. Open. Mr. Dunklin was elected to the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, the Arkansas Tennis Hall of Fame and was a past president of the Arkansas Tennis Association.

Mr. Dunklin was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Pine Bluff, where he served as deacon and Sunday School teacher. He was a member and past president of the Pine Bluff Rotary Club and past president of the Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce. He was the director of Simmons First National Corporation in Pine Bluff and he served as chairman of the Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff.

My deepest condolences go to Mr. Dunklin's wife, Mary Elisabeth "Lib" Black Dunklin of Pine Bluff; his daughter Deborah Tipton of Memphis, TN; his son George Dunklin, Jr. of DeWitt; his two brothers William Dunklin of Pine Bluff and Louis Dunklin of Dallas, TX; and to his 5 grandchildren. Mr. George Dunklin, Sr., will be greatly missed in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County and throughout the State of Arkansas.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. What finer tribute to our wives and mothers could we pay during this week before Mother's Day than to join as cosponsors of this important bill.

This legislation would invest in the research we need to discover the potential links between breast cancer and environmental factors. It is research that could someday lead to a cure.

Over 1,000 Utahns will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year; of those, 200 will probably die from the disease. Even though Utah has a lower incidence rate compared to other States, it's tragic that a woman in our country has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer during her lifetime. That is a much greater risk than in 1975, when it was 1 in 11. We know that breast cancer remains the second-leading cause of cancer death among women. I am committed—as I know you are—to finding answers to the questions about possible links between this life-threatening disease and environmental factors.

We know we are making progress against breast cancer, but we don't yet know enough about what causes it, or how to prevent it.

Let's make this 2007 Mother's Day the time we step up our investment into the critical search for answers. A bipartisan group of 144 of our colleagues has already cosponsored H.R. 1157. I urge everyone to join that group.

I hope that this Congress will act on the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. I believe it's an important piece of the puzzle as we continue the fight to defeat this potential threat to the health and well-being of mothers everywhere.

URGING SUPPORT OF THE BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for greater research into the possible link between breast cancer and the environment. I am a supporter of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act and I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation, as a tribute to all of our mothers on Mother's Day. This bill would invest in the research still necessary to determine the potential links between breast cancer and the environment, so we can better treat and eventually eradicate this terrible disease.

Madam Speaker, families in the 8th District of Pennsylvania have urged me to fight for increased research into the potential links between the environment and breast cancer. It is especially important to me personally, as my own mother battled and beat breast cancer when I was a young child. I continue admire her bravery and determination, and I hope we can look to that strength as a model as we commit to doing everything in our power to find a cure.

A woman in the United States has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer during her lifetime—this risk was 1 in 11 in 1975. Breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer death among women.

While important advances have been made, we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it. What better way to honor our mothers this year than to commit to finding answers to a disease suffered by more than 3 million women in this country? Let's declare war on breast cancer, and invest in getting the answers we need to eradicate this disease.

I urge my fellow members to support of the bipartisan Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

HOLDING CONTRACTORS ACCOUNT- ABLE FOR AIRPORT SECURITY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I join my colleague from Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, in introducing legislation (H.R. 2288) that will address a security loophole endangering millions of Americans. One lesson we learned from September 11 is the importance of airport security. The security of our airports has a glaring weakness: badges.

According to a CBS Channel 2 Chicago investigative report, 3,760 aviation security badges have gone missing from O'Hare Airport since 2004. These badges are the only identification necessary for law enforcement officials, independent contractors, baggage handlers, flight attendants, and pilots to enter O'Hare. Aside from these aviation security badges, no baggage inspections, metal detectors, or other searches are required to enter the airfield. The investigative report revealed that airport contractors are unwilling to reclaim badges from employees who quit, were fired, or otherwise reassigned.

This casual attitude towards reclaiming security badges is not acceptable. O'Hare registered more than 477,000 flights in 2005. In light of last year's liquid explosive threat, there remains a risk of terrorist attacks on domestic and international flights. Given this threat, we must know with certainty who has unrestricted access to the airport, terminals, baggage, and aircraft and if they remain trustworthy and authorized to work in a secure area.

This problem is not isolated to Chicago. According to data compiled by the Congressional Research Service, many of the Nation's airports have similar problems reclaiming security badges. In early February, officials at the Los Angeles International Airport reported more than 120 missing Transportation Security Administration uniforms and badges. In Oakland, 500 badges went missing last year. At Buffalo Airport in New York, nearly 40 security badges were reported missing or stolen in 2006. Forty-two turned up missing in Dallas.

What we need now is for the private contractors who employ airport employees to be held accountable for what should be a routine business practice. Under this legislation, contractors must make a reasonable effort to retrieve badges from employees whose term of employment ends, and must notify the local airport authority of the termination within 24 hours. Failure to do would result in a civil fine of up to \$10,000 per badge per day. Mr. LIPINSKI and I crafted this bill in consultation with the Airports Council International of North America, our Nation's largest airport association.

In the post-September 11 environment, we must ensure professional vigilance to secure our Nation's airports. We need private contractors to be held accountable for what should be a routine business practice. By hitting contractors where it hurts—their pocketbooks—we can help make our Nation's airports safer.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JIM CASTLEMAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Jim Castleman for his 38 years of faithful service teaching in the public school system.

Jim Castleman began teaching at Plew Elementary in 1969 upon receiving his Bachelor's degree from the University of West Florida and later went on to earn his Master's degree in 1972. While teaching fifth grade at Plew Elementary, Mr. Castleman has become a prominent member of the community well-known for his dedication and generosity. His contributions to excellence in education were recognized when he was honored by the Okaloosa County School Board as Teacher of the Year in 1985.

Mr. Castleman's involvement both in and out of the classroom proves his dedication and passion for teaching. In 1991, Mr. Castleman began coaching the school's tremendously successful Academic Team. The Academic Team competes in three state competitions each year and over the course of his seventeen years as coach they have earned numerous awards including eleven 1st place awards, nineteen 2nd place awards, and three 3rd place awards. For Mr. Castleman's final year as coach, the team not only earned 1st place in the state, but also 1st place in the entire Southeast Region.

He has spent much of his time becoming personally involved in the students' lives in his efforts to make learning an enjoyable adventure. Mr. Castleman could often be found on the playground engaging in a friendly game of kickball with his students. Since 1972, he has been building and launching rockets with his students, and in 1991 he developed the popular educational club, Young Astronauts. The program concludes each year with a trip to space camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Mr. Castleman is also credited with organizing the school's Safety Patrol which teaches his students the importance of service and safety for others.

As a member of the local 1960's rock band, the Thunderbeats, Jim performed gigs throughout Florida and later utilized his talent and love for percussion to teach drum lessons for 35 years. He plans to continue conducting drum lessons after his retirement from the public school system.

Out of his passion for teaching and his love for children, Jim sets high standards for all of his students and works with them to achieve their individual goals and the desired results of the overall academic performance of the class. He is the positive force behind each student's growth of mind, by giving them the confidence, knowledge, and inspiration needed to succeed.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Jim Castleman on his exemplary service in the Okaloosa County School District and wish him continued success during his retirement.