

which was created by our subcommittee in the fiscal year 2001 Interior appropriations bill as an upstream solution to help conserve species before they decline to the point where they need Endangered Species Act protection. Now this important program, and the comprehensive State wildlife action plans that were required for states to get funding, will be on the forefront of our Nation's efforts to help mitigate the impacts of global warming on wildlife.

This bill will help ensure that the pressing needs that are faced by the agencies and programs under the Interior and Environment appropriations subcommittee to help wildlife and wildlife habitat are addressed strategically, based on a foundation of sound scientific information, and that funding is allocated among the Federal agencies and the States in the most efficient way possible.

As I introduce this important bill, I also have one additional very significant point to make about funding to address impacts to wildlife from global warming. As Congress moves forward in considering comprehensive legislation to address global warming, it is possible that new sources of funding for the Federal Government will be generated. For example, in legislation to cap greenhouse gas emissions, it is likely that a system of emissions credits that can be traded would be created. In the process, there is an opportunity to auction some of these credits, producing substantial revenue for the Federal Treasury. Although the "Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act" as I am introducing it authorizes funding to implement the provisions of the bill, I believe that a portion of any revenues that will be generated by upcoming global warming legislation should be specifically dedicated to implement the provisions of the "Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act."

The Interior and Environment appropriations subcommittee allocation is woefully stressed just dealing with the current needs of the agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. Our Federal land management agencies have tremendous backlogs for operations and maintenance of our national wildlife refuges, parks, forests and other public lands. This situation has been greatly exacerbated by the past 6 years of Bush administration budgets and prior Congresses. Hundreds of important biologist positions have been cut, and the agencies' budgets are far below what they have needed just to keep up with inflation. These programs have been starved to the point where they are on life support. It became apparent in the recent hearing on global warming held by the subcommittee that the land management agencies are already seeing the results of climate change on the ground, but that they have few, if any, resources to deal with these changes. With the effects of global warming only expected to increase in severity in the coming years, I believe it is crucial to infuse dedicated new funding into our efforts to address this crisis, and I will work to make this happen.

This is a great Nation with a unique and irreplaceable natural heritage. We must take steps now to protect our wonderful wildlife from the ravages of climate change.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH YODER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Keith Yoder of Kalamazoo, Michigan for his 32 years of distinguished public service with the Social Security Administration.

Keith began his career with Social Security in July 1975 as a Claims Authorizer in Philadelphia, PA. While it would take 25 years for Keith to make his way to our corner of Southwest Michigan, he continued to develop an impressive professional track record throughout Indiana and Michigan.

Over the past 7 years, Keith has managed the Social Security field office in Kalamazoo, from which he and his staff have faithfully served the residents of Allegan, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph counties. During an age in which government bureaucracy has too often become synonymous with the impersonal and lethargic, Keith and, under direction, his team have always been a reliable, informative and affable resource for my constituents and staff. His support of shelter-based and follow-up assistance to the Hurricane Katrina evacuees who made their way to my district in 2005 serves as a testament to both the good will and dedication that characterize his career.

Once again, I would like to personally congratulate and thank Keith Yoder for his many years of public service to the citizens of this great country. Southwest Michigan is truly a better place because of his contributions.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former California Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald and her lifetime of dedication to the people of California and the United States. I was deeply saddened to learn our colleague passed away so suddenly. We have not only lost a wonderful friend but an individual who during her lifetime made countless contributions toward the betterment of our Nation.

A native of Alabama—there is some dispute as to whether she was born in Gee's Bend or Birmingham—Juanita's ties to her home state remained strong throughout her life. In fact, just a few short years ago, she was extremely involved with her family reunion which was held in Monroeville, in Alabama's First District. She was always so very proud of her family and naturally, they are so very proud of her.

Juanita began her career as a teacher in Los Angeles. She was also the editor-writer for the Los Angeles Unified School District and worked as a manuscript editor for Images, a textbook designed to enhance the self-esteem of young women. She began her political career in 1990, when she was elected to the Cason City Council. Just 2 years later, she was elected to the California State Assembly.

In 1996, Juanita was elected to represent the 37th District of California in the United States House of Representatives. Throughout her seven terms, she was a champion of election reform and women's health issues. She made history in the 110th Congress when she was named chairwoman of the House Administration Committee becoming the first African American woman to chair a House committee.

We are privileged to have known and worked with such a passionate and loyal individual. Juanita will be greatly missed and always remembered. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant.

Juanita Millender-McDonald will be deeply missed by her family—her husband, James McDonald Jr., her five children, and five grandchildren—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, we are here today because last week President Bush vetoed legislation supported by a majority of the members of the House and the Senate. The vetoed supplemental appropriations bill, H.R. 1591, would have provided funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, cared for the needs of our veterans and put forth commonsense benchmarks and timelines to hold Iraq's politicians accountable for achieving needed political results. President Bush rejected that modest requirement to the foreign policy disaster he has created in Iraq. Once again it would appear he has forgotten that the rubber stamp Congress he had grown accustomed to is no longer in power and the American people, along with the new Congress, expect cooperation, compromise and an exit strategy from Iraq, not more "stay the course" rhetoric that has cost our Nation so many lives.

Today's bill, H.R. 2206, unfortunately does not set a timetable for bringing U.S. troops home, but it does provide President Bush with an opportunity to demonstrate his commitment to holding Iraq's political leadership accountable while providing the Department of Defense with \$42.8 billion in immediate funding for our troops in Iraq. This legislation also provides Congress the ability to ensure that the President and the Pentagon are taking meaningful steps to achieve success in Iraq by "protecting" an additional \$52.8 billion in military spending. This spending would be released when the President reports to Congress in mid-July that his stated benchmarks and goals in Iraq are being met. This legislation is not the blank check the President wants. But, it is a responsible, measured approach for a White House that has proven itself incapable of honest, forthright leadership in managing this war.

H.R. 2206 is necessary legislation that puts the needs of U.S. troops and responsible accountability for a policy that now threatens

U.S. military preparedness and our national security. Congress has every right, and in fact every obligation, to hold President Bush and Iraq's political leadership accountable for their lack of results and complete lack of urgency while U.S. troops patrol in the midst of an Iraqi civil war.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 2206 and I urge my colleagues—especially my Republican colleagues—to take this appropriate and tempered step towards protecting our troops while demanding political accountability from President Bush and his Iraqi counterparts.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA BERKOWITZ

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and pay tribute to an esteemed member of my community, Sylvia Berkowitz as she celebrates her 100th birthday on May 30th.

I know that her love and kindness have been an inspiration to her family and friends. Her dedication to her family—as a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and recently a great-great-grandmother—is to be revered.

Throughout the last century, Sylvia has not only dedicated her energies and remarkable abilities to her family but also to others. I applaud her work in volunteering for numerous charitable organizations including helping those struggling with Leukemia, Multiple Sclerosis and other incapacitating diseases.

On behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, it is my privilege to congratulate Sylvia Berkowitz on this momentous occasion. You are a true inspiration and a wonderful human being. I wish you continued success, good health, and happiness in the years ahead.

AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 634, the American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act. This bipartisan legislation commemorates those veterans who have sacrificed so much to secure our freedom by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in their honor.

The funding generated from the sale of these coins will be used to help build a memorial to disabled veterans on the grounds surrounding the U.S. Capitol. This memorial, which will sit within full view of the Capitol, will serve to remind us of those young men and women who put their lives on the line each day in defense of this great Nation.

Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit Walter Reed to meet some of the brave men and women that we seek to honor here

today. I will never forget the faces of those warriors who proved that they would stop at nothing to fulfill the mission that this Nation has laid before them.

Our military veterans have served honorably around the world, in many of the most hostile and dangerous conditions known to man. Whether it is in the fields of Europe, the jungles of Southeast Asia, or the deserts of the Middle East, the selfless actions of these men and women helps to preserve the liberty that we hold so dear.

These soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who voluntarily heeded the call to serve our Nation in combat, truly embody all that is great within our society. They have shown courage and valor, consistently performing with distinction on foreign battlefields. These honorable Americans have given us all that they have to offer. It is now time for us to show them how much we appreciate their great sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING KEELIN BROUGHAN ON THE 2006 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keelin Broughan on winning the 2006 Presidential Award of Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

Ms. Broughan is a kindergarten teacher at Paul Revere Elementary School in Chicago. I often say that we need to start teaching math and science to our children as early as possible, and it doesn't get much earlier than kindergarten.

Paul Revere Elementary is a Chicago Public School with a very long tradition in the community. Thanks to excellent teachers like Keelin Broughan, students from a variety of backgrounds are able to have access to an outstanding education.

This week, Ms. Broughan will be presented with her award and have an opportunity to meet the President of the United States and her fellow award winners from across the country.

Since 1983, over 3,700 teachers have received Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The effort and ability of these educators will help ensure that our children are ably prepared for the coming years.

Madam Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Keelin Broghan on her outstanding work in the classroom, and I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALIDA DIETRICH BEGINA, ED.D.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend and out-

standing community member, Dr. Alida Dietrich Begina, who was taken from us all too soon in late April of this year after losing her battle with breast cancer. As a wife, mother, educator, administrator, colleague and friend, Alida gave so much of herself to others and has left an indelible mark on the lives of all of those she touched.

Alida's dedication to education—at every level—was unparalleled. She began her career as an English, Latin, and Spanish teacher in several school systems eventually working her way to administrative positions. She worked in both public school systems as well as alternative education systems, even spending 2 years as an Instructor in English as a Second Language at Indiana Central University in Nicosia, Cyprus. She would end her career as the Superintendent of Hamden Public Schools where she was respected and loved by students, faculty and community members alike. In the 12 years she served in this position, Alida worked diligently to provide Hamden's students with access to the best possible education on which to build their future success. She was a reflection of all that we hope our education leaders will be.

Through all of her efforts Alida became one of the most highly regarded administrators in the State. In addition to serving as the Superintendent for the Hamden Public School system, she served as an adjunct professor at both Sacred Heart University and Southern Connecticut State University, where she taught graduate courses for obtaining superintendents' certification as well as curriculum development and theories of learning for administrator certification. Alida was often looked to by professionals and public policy makers for input—the myriad of honors, awards, and commendations that she earned throughout her career are a testimony to her distinguished reputation as a leader in public education. Perhaps most telling was her selection as the only superintendent in Connecticut to design and write the revised version of the Connecticut Administrator Test that is used for certification of administrators. Indeed, I and my staff often called upon Alida's vast knowledge and experience when faced with challenging choices in public policy concerning education. The loss of her expertise and unique perspective on public education and its impact on our young people will certainly be missed by many.

One of her most invaluable contributions and lasting legacies is her work to establish the Hamden Education Foundation—a non-profit organization that, since its inception, has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars which has been used to fund innovative student programs and scholarships. In addition to several annual scholarships, funds are used for such programs as the purchase of library books and periodicals for all Hamden public schools as well as mini-grants aimed at encouraging teachers and other certified staff to implement exciting and often long-cherished ideas. The Foundation looks to the community to raise the funds it uses—creating a special bond between the community and its young people. I have no doubt that the Hamden Education Foundation and Alida's vision in which it was created will continue to enrich the lives and education of Hamden students for many years to come.

Dr. Alida Dietrich Begina will long be remembered for her many invaluable contributions to education, both locally and state-wide.