

that place would be Changing Hands bookstore.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2007 U.S.
PHYSICS OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the members of the 2007 United States Physics Olympiad Team.

It is very challenging to earn a spot on this prestigious team. After taking a preliminary exam, 200 high school students qualified to take the second and final screening exam for the U.S. Physics Team. The 24 survivors of that group represent the top physics students in the U.S., and they are now at a ten-day training camp of intense study, examination and problem solving hosted by the University of Maryland. Five of these exceptional students will advance and represent the United States in a tremendous international competition in July at the International Physics Olympiad in Isfahan, Iran.

The 24 members of the 2007 team include: Erik Anson, Sophie Cai, Tucker Chan, Joseph Chu, Benjamin Connell, Kenan Diab, Nicholas Dou, YingYu Gao, Kenneth Hu, Rui Hu, Sunny Kam, Jenny Kwan, Jason LaRue, Allen Lin, Andy Lucas, Sarah Marzen, Kynan Rilee, Aleksandra Stankiewicz, Philip Streich, Arvind Thiagarajan, Philip Tynan, Haofei Wei, James Yang, and Danny Zhu.

I commend the American Institute of Physics and the American Association of Physics Teachers for organizing this annual event and fostering a passion for science in these students. I know that for every finalist represented here, there are numerous colleagues and parents who have provided tireless support to help them reach this point. As a former physics professor, I also am well-aware that this level of achievement is usually backed by a host of exceptional teachers dedicated to their profession and to educating individual students. I hope each of the Olympiad finalists will make a point of thanking and recognizing the teachers that have guided them over the years.

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) practitioners are very important to our national competitiveness. I imagine that many of these students will become leaders in the science and engineering community in the future. While they represent the pinnacle of physics achievement in high school, I believe Congress must work to improve the opportunities in STEM education for all students, even those who may not choose scientifically-based careers. Making sure our teachers are well-equipped to teach science and math is very important in fostering the interest of future generations in these subjects because every job will soon require a basic understanding of math and science.

I am very pleased that these students take time away from their purely scientific endeavors to meet with their legislators in Washington. I believe it is very important for scientists to engage with politicians regarding the impact that science and technology can have on issues such as national security, climate

change, and healthcare. Furthermore, I hope some of these students will consider running for public office and add their expertise to the policy world. I am very thankful for these future leaders and ask that you please join me in congratulating them on their wonderful achievements. We wish the top 5 the best of success as they represent the United States in Iran.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF FERS
REDEPOSIT ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, there is no debate over whether the Federal Government is facing a workforce shortage crisis—it is. In 10 years, 90 percent of our nation's civil service federal executives will be over the age of 50 and many will be nearing retirement. This coming brain drain threatens the stability and functioning of essential government functions. At a time when the American people are demanding efficient and effective government—from the implementation of public programs to the oversight of the Iraq war—we are about to lose many of our dedicated and most knowledgeable professionals.

I am writing to ask for your support for a bill I will re-introduce that takes a step in the right direction. The FERS Redeposit Act would allow individuals who left the Federal Government, and received a refund of their Federal Employees Retirement System, FERS, contributions, to re-enter government service without losing their accrued annuity. Instead of forfeiting credit earned during their prior service, returning employees would be able to redeposit their cashed out annuity upon re-employment. This benefit is already available to federal employees who are registered under the older Civil Service Retirement System, CSRS.

I have received many letters of former federal employees who work for the private sector, but would like to return to civil service. Many of these well-qualified men and women are choosing to remain in the private workforce because the costs to reentering the federal workforce are too high. In an economy where people will change jobs many times over the course of their careers, a reinvestment option under FERS will make government service more competitive, incorporating the flexibility and mobility that are so common in the private sector businesses of the new economy.

As more and more FERS employees leave the Federal Government and later wish to re-enter federal service, a redeposit option would provide the incentive needed to bring these individuals back to government service.

Now is the time to act before the workforce shortage hits our civil service the hardest. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to make federal service more attractive by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

HONORING CHRIS CLARK'S 41-YEAR
CAREER AT WTVF-CHANNEL 5

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chris Clark on his retirement from WTVF-Channel 5 after 41 years of service.

During a segment before his retirement on Wednesday, May 23, after the 6 p.m. newscast, Chris seemed surprised at the outpouring of well wishes he received via e-mail from hundreds of viewers who considered him as part of their family after all the years he had been on air. Indeed, it's rare for a person in broadcast to stay in one place for 41 years.

Chris will be remembered for encouraging Channel 5 to switch from recorded interviews to live on-site reports, making the station only the second in the Nation to use the technology at that time. But he may be more famous for giving Oprah Winfrey her first television job in 1974.

Chris, I wish you well as you head into retirement. I understand you are a self-described movie nut and that you will soon take a well-deserved vacation in Florida with your family. I hope you have many more opportunities to travel and watch movies in your unscripted life.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATION'S
TRAUMA SYSTEMS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the important role of our Nation's trauma systems. On March 27, 2007, this Chamber passed legislation I sponsored to reauthorize the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act. This important legislation was signed into law on May 3, 2007. However, while the bill awaited the President's signature, the Nation observed the critical importance of trauma systems and the role they played in ensuring that New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine received the quick and efficient health care he needed to survive injuries he sustained during an April 12 traffic accident.

I would request that this New York Times article entitled "In Corzine's Fast Recovery, Doctors Cite Timing, Grit and Luck" be inserted in the RECORD. This article outlines the important role that the Camden, New Jersey area's trauma system—and particularly its Level I Trauma Center, Cooper University Hospital—played in Governor Corzine's treatment.

[From The New York Times, May 13, 2007]

IN CORZINE'S FAST RECOVERY, DOCTORS CITE
TIMING, GRIT AND LUCK

(By Lawrence K. Altman)

An article on Sunday about the extensive medical care that Gov. Jon S. Corzine of New Jersey received at Cooper University Hospital in Camden after a traffic accident on April 12 misstated the date of Mr. Corzine's release in some copies. It was April 30, not May 1.