

guns used in crimes. These reports yielded valuable information for local law enforcement officials, researchers and the public. Some of the results were startling: For example, 57 percent of crime guns came from 1.2 percent of licensed dealers, the ATF estimated in 2000. The guns the bad guys use don't just come from the black market, in other words; a huge proportion come from a handful of unscrupulous vendors.

But since Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-Kan.) added a rider to the Justice Department's budget in 2003, the ATF has been prohibited from sharing such gun-trace information with the public, keeping additional insights that might be gained from the data out of public view and making it harder for local authorities to connect the dots. Every year since, the so-called Tiahrt Amendment has gotten more restrictive, narrowing the ability of local police to gain access to or apply gun-trace information. The worst iteration yet came last month, when the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a version from Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.) that threatens to put police officers in prison if they use federal gun-trace data for any purpose other than to advance specific, "bona fide criminal investigations"—for proactively tracking and interdicting illicit guns, for example, or identifying problem gun sellers.

The House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider a less restrictive, but still odious, provision tomorrow. The panel should remove the Tiahrt language, and the House Democratic leadership should encourage its members to do so. District Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (D) and New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (I) yesterday called for repeal at a joint news conference, and their cause is backed by more than 200 other mayors and scores of law enforcement organizations and police chiefs. Striking the Tiahrt rider is not about chipping away at Second Amendment rights. It is about empowering local authorities to do basic police work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE POLISH
AMERICAN CONGRESS, OHIO DI-
VISION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, for their many years of service to the Polish-American community in the great State of Ohio.

The Polish American Congress, since its founding in 1944, has been a symbol of the strong relationship between the United States and Poland, and a testament to the contributions of the rich Polish culture.

For many years the Polish American Congress has worked to unite and to support Americans of Polish origin in the United States, regardless of political, religious, or other affiliation. This great organization provides all Polish groups of Ohio the opportunity to express pride and celebrate their heritage and culture through educational, artistic and cultural events.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, for their continuing support of the Polish American people in Ohio, and for their important efforts in helping people to connect to their heritage.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL KELLY
DULLE FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Kelly Dulle, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 601, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Kelly Dulle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF SALEM
FOR BEING DESIGNATED A PRE-
SERVE AMERICA COMMUNITY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Salem, OR for being recognized as a community proud of its heritage, proud of its history, and committed to preserving its historic resources so that they may be enjoyed for generations to come.

I was not surprised to learn that First Lady Laura Bush and the Preserve America Initiative had recognized Salem for its historic and cultural preservation efforts and had named the city a Preserve America Community. I grew up in Salem and know that it is exactly the type of community that we want to preserve.

Salem, Oregon's capital is one of Oregon's oldest communities. It grew as a pioneer settlement around the Oregon Institute that is now Willamette University, and Salem's location in the center of the fertile Willamette Valley has allowed it to play an important role in Oregon's agricultural economy since statehood.

Over the past few years, a 33-member citizens' taskforce created the Downtown Revitalization Toolbox which has sought to address vacancy and rehabilitation concerns in the Historic Downtown by providing matching grants for historic building improvement projects. Through public-private partnerships, thousands of volunteer hours have been logged and over \$8.5 million invested in Salem's Historic Downtown District.

There is a saying that good citizens are the riches of a city. Knowing the effort that has been made by the citizens of Salem to preserve historic treasures and create economic opportunities for local businesses, I can safely say that Salem is a wealthy city indeed.

I invite all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of Salem and the other

communities across the country that have been designated as Preserve America Communities. It is through their efforts that our collective history and culture will be secured for future generations.

NEW YORK CARIBNEWS ARTICLE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article published in the New York CaribNews, for the week ending July 10, titled "President George Bush to Send U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings to Caribbean." While the Caribbean Community—CARICOM—nations were in the United States last month, they highlighted the education challenges the region is facing. The article discusses Secretary of Education Spellings' upcoming visit to the region following up on their concerns, in the hopes of developing a cooperative solution to boost CARICOM's educational systems.

The Secretary's trip will focus on the need to foster stronger tertiary educational systems throughout the region. By sharing our experiences in addressing the challenges of education, we can strengthen our efforts to reach the goal of better education for all throughout the region. Quality education for all is a recipe for growth and innovation that leads to economic and social development. Education is a way out of poverty and fosters democracy, as well as respect for human rights.

In her visit to the CARICOM nations, I also encourage her to visit the nation of Haiti. This country is the most economically vulnerable of the CARICOM states and would benefit greatly from methodologies to address their education challenges. Haiti is a nation of 9 million habitants and it is estimated that more than half of the population is unable to read and write. This trend cannot continue due to the increased interdependency of countries caused by globalization. It does not benefit the United States or the Western Hemisphere to continue to leave behind the thousands of Haitian children each year by allowing illiteracy to prevail. Lack of education leads to poverty and it is my contention that poverty puts the security of the region at risk.

I cannot underscore enough the importance of a consistent and progressive relationship between the United States and the Caribbean. Educational collaboration with our partners in the western hemisphere will lead to higher living standards and stronger democracies.

PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH TO SEND U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, MARGARET SPELLINGS, TO CARIBBEAN

(By Tony Best)

U.S. Secretary of Education is going to Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and their neighbors to see how they can work together to boost CARICOM's educational system.

Margaret Spellings, the first mother of school-aged children to serve as Education Secretary, is being sent to the region by President George Bush.

The proposed visit is a follow up to the recent summit in Washington between the United States chief executive and CARICOM leaders held at the State Department in Washington in June.