

Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, St. Vincent's Prime Minister, who until yesterday was chairman of CARICOM and is being succeeded by Barbados' Prime Minister Owen Arthur, first disclosed plans for Spellings' visit at the behest of President Bush.

Dr. Gonsalves, a former political science lecturer at the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies before studying law and entering active politics in his homeland, said that the President indicated to the Caribbean Prime Ministers and President that the Education Secretary would go to the region to meet with government officials and educators.

"We welcome any opportunity to work with the United States to expand our educational institutions. The President told us that the Secretary of Education, a member of his cabinet is eager to visit the Caribbean to meet with us," he said.

Spellings, a key architect of President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" education program, is expected to pay considerable attention to the Caribbean's efforts to boost tertiary level educational opportunities and to link universities and colleges at the regional and national levels, including the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Universities of Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and other colleges in the Bahamas, Barbados and the OECS.

"The linking of the colleges and the university is something we consider to be very important," said Gonsalves.

Barbados' Foreign Minister, Dame Billie Miller, who confirmed the proposed Spellings visit, described it as a natural follow-up to the extensive discussions about education at the summit.

"All sides agreed it was the most important thing, education and training," she said. "Indeed, it was pointed out to President Bush that in some areas we in the region are the donor community."

Specifically, 60 per cent of the doctors trained at the University of the West Indies end up working in the United States.

"This was part of a discussion with the President, the Ways and Means and the Foreign Affairs Committees of the House of Representatives as to why so many Caribbean students were now choosing to go to Cuba for training because it was at a fraction of the cost of training in the United States," she pointed out.

As a matter of fact, Guyana's President Bharrat Jagdeo went to great lengths to explain that training provided by Cuba to West Indian students was to "offset the brain drain" from the Caribbean to the United States.

"In that respect, we are the donor rather than the donee committee. It was generally discussed that technology transfer was really very important and we had to do a lot more work at the post secondary and tertiary education stages.

The heads spoke of the vision in this region among the universities, not only the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados but the Universities in Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica and now the University of Trinidad and Tobago and soon to be the University College of Barbados and another independent university in Jamaica as well.

"It was felt that we had to have a far greater interface in the region because gone are the days when most of our graduates doing post graduate work would go to Europe," she added.

The dates and the itinerary for Spellings' visit have not yet been worked out. Dr. Gonsalves said his country was the beneficiary of scores of scholarships offered by Cuba, Venezuela, Mexico, China and Malaysia.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS A.
DELURY 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 Nicholas A. Delury, 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 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Nicholas 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 Nicholas A. Delury for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN HERO KORY
WIENS

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the solemn duty of memorializing the passing of an American Hero.

Corporal Kory D. Wiens and his canine partner Cooper were killed while on patrol in Muhammad Sath, Iraq.

Some of us remember the news reports about Kory and his companion; it was a heart-warming story of a special bond between a young man and very special retriever. Once introduced to each other at Lackland, they were never far apart.

Even in death, Kory and Cooper remain a team. Together they gave their last full measure of devotion performing their duty—together they earned the peace of knowing they lived a good, meaningful life.

Today, Kory lives on in our memories.

Sadly he is not the first—and will not be the last—to fall in this war.

However, we cannot allow the mounting enormity of loss diminish the sacrifice—the life and loss—of Kory or those that follow.

Colleagues, I ask you to put down pen and paper; pause for a moment and reflect upon our circumstance.

Take this moment: honor the service of Kory Wiens—mourn his passing—and accept the gift of life and liberty he freely gave.

Kory Wiens was born and raised in the Willamette Valley of Oregon.

He was a cub scout, a wrestler, and a quarterback at West Albany High School. Kory was an all-American: a young man that believed our Nation was worthy of its promise; a patriot that lived a life of standing up for those that could not stand on their own.

Kory and his brother Kevin, who is still serving in Iraq, exemplified the kind of courage that made our Nation, State, and community the home of the brave, and land of the free.

Today, we know that Corporal Wiens' law enforcement career will not extend beyond his service in the Army.

We know that the "Brotherhood of Wiens" is now one member smaller, but that Kory, Kevin, and Kyle will never again fully celebrate their special bond.

And we know that we as a people—that we as a Nation—will never be what it could have been without him.

Kory wanted to serve his community. His life can serve as a lesson for us all, if we choose to embrace its meaning and we choose to honor his legacy.

What if we all took our responsibilities as seriously?

What if we worked at being selfless more, selfish less?

What if we helped each other realize the promise of our ideals and cooperated with each other to make America the kind of place worthy of young men like Kory Wiens?

We have that choice.

Together we can use the life and legacy of Kory Wiens to rekindle the spirit of our America.

Together we can keep the spirit of Kory Wiens—and all those like him—alive through a daily commitment to make this place better than we find it.

And together we can work for a time when peace replaces war, when service and sacrifice are celebrated without loss.

Let us commit ourselves anew to earning the gifts given.

NEW MEXICO WATER PLANNING
ASSISTANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1904, the New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act. I would like to thank my colleague from New Mexico for her work on this legislation and on the issue. It is an extremely important issue to us in New Mexico, and throughout the Southwest.

Like other states in the arid west, New Mexico suffers from water scarcity. Drought often impacts municipal water supply, agricultural water supply, and increases volatility in high fire-risk areas. Economies and ecologies alike are threatened when scarce water resources are not properly managed. Ensuring careful management of this precious resource is a top priority in communities throughout New Mexico. This bill would allow New Mexico communities to unite under statewide water plans, formulated from comprehensive statewide research and quantification of water resources.

Through grants and technical assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey, this bill authorizes funding for resource mapping and studies assessing the quality and quantity of both surface and groundwater throughout the state. The bill further allocates funds to develop models for several of the state's rivers, many of which are threatened by overuse and excessive impoundment. This year, the Rio Grande was included in the World Wildlife Fund's list of the