

Windsor High School will receive almost \$300,000 in additional school funding due to efforts of teachers and officials dedicated to securing resources for their students. Other grants will assist the school in developing a pre-med core health program, digital design classes, and a vineyard academy as well as work on sustainable energy.

Madam Speaker, we are fortunate to have teachers like Amy in our schools. She understands that our children are our most important resource for the future, and we must do all we can to provide them with the best opportunities. I am proud to honor Amy Zigler and all the teachers who make our country a better place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I missed several rollcall votes on Monday, July 23, 2007 and Tuesday, July 24, 2007. I would like to enter into the record how I intended to vote on these rollcall votes:

On Roll No. 687, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 404; the Federal Customer Service Enhancement Act, I would have voted "yea."

On Roll No. 688, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 553, I would have voted "yea."

On Roll No. 689, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 519, I would have voted "yea."

On Roll No. 690, On Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 558, I would have voted "yea."

On Roll No. 691, On agreeing to the Mica amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 692, On agreeing to the Bachmann amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 693, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 694, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 695, On agreeing to the Chabot amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 696, On agreeing to the Westmoreland amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 697, On agreeing to the Sessions amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 698, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 699, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 700, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 701, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 702, On agreeing to the Flake amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 703, On agreeing to the Hastings amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On Roll No. 704, On agreeing to the Frelinghuysen amendment, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber yesterday. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 687, 688, 689 and 690.

COMMIT TO FULLY FUND RESEARCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to clarify a statement from my earlier remarks regarding life expectancy in the United States versus other nations. Cuba does not rank ahead of the United States in life expectancy. A person born in the U.S. can expect to live 78 years and those born in Cuba 77.08 years. Cuba's life expectancy rates are comparable to rates for the United States despite the fact that their spending on healthcare, per capita, is less than \$50 and the United States' spending per capita is almost \$7000.

We also have a comparable ranking on World Health Organization's list for over all health, with the U.S. ranked 37th and Cuba ranked 39th.

We spend more money on healthcare than any other nation in the world and yet the United States ranks 23rd in infant mortality among industrialized nations, behind nations like Germany, Canada and Cuba.

We used to be first in life expectancy in 1945, now, according to the Central Intelligence Agencies World Fact Book, we rank 45th. We must act to reverse this downward slide in the health of our Nation and the most vital step is to revitalize our commitment to universal access to healthcare, primary care and a healthcare home for every single person in America.

RECOGNITION OF ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE US-VISIT PROGRAM, P.T. WRIGHT

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented leader and individual, Mr. P.T. Wright. P.T., who currently serves as Acting Deputy Director of the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program, is retiring from the Federal government after 34 years of distinguished service.

Since P.T. began his career with the former U.S. Customs Service in 1973, he has served with distinction in a number of key positions at the Departments of the Treasury and Homeland Security. In his management roles with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; El Paso, Texas; Nogales,

Arizona; and Washington, DC, P.T. was intricately involved in the development of customs policies for cargo examination and processing, drug interdiction and traveler processing.

Most recently, P.T. brought his track record of outstanding leadership to the Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program. The program benefited from his oversight and management of day-to-day operations.

P.T.'s familiarity with the communities surrounding our land borders has been a tremendous asset to US-VISIT. P.T. understood that active engagement with border stakeholders was critical in creating a foundation of trust and support upon which to build positive long-term relationships. He tirelessly traveled Southwest border communities to inform and educate border constituents about border management developments and initiatives. As a result of his in-depth knowledge of the land border environment and his ability to speak with clarity and conviction, P.T. earned the affection of border community leaders and gained instant credibility. And when P.T. returned to Washington, he took what he heard from border constituents and helped make real, on-the-ground improvements to US-VISIT.

While not yet completed, US-VISIT is now the world's most innovative and integrated biometrics program. This is in no small part due to leaders like P.T. Wherever he went, P.T. spread the message that biometrics are a powerful tool to improve the integrity of our immigration and border management system, to make us safer, and to facilitate legitimate travel and trade. I have no doubt that US-VISIT is on a path to continue to drive the innovative use of biometrics for identity management. P.T. deserves a great deal of credit for that success.

Mr. Wright's accomplishments and leadership were recognized last year with the prestigious Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive for his extraordinary contributions to our Nation's welfare and security over the course of a U.S. border management career spanning 34 years.

P.T. Wright is beloved within the US-VISIT program and around the many federal agencies that have worked with him. All who have had the opportunity to work with P.T. are better off for the experience. His candor and infectious sense of humor will be missed, but we are grateful for his long service and many contributions.

Madam Speaker, I urge that my colleagues join me in honoring P.T. Wright for his exceptional achievements and his commitment to excellence. P.T. has been an outstanding ambassador for US-VISIT. I commend P.T. for his service to the United States and I offer him best wishes in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF GENEROUS CITIZENS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise in acknowledgment of the extreme generosity of some of my constituents. I wish to recognize the kindness of Marble Rock Unit 387 of the American Legion Auxiliary, from Marble Rock, Iowa.

Recently, Gabrielle Wedeking of Marble Rock was born with a rare disorder of the immune system and required a bone marrow transplant. Marble Rock Unit 287 held a benefit that included a meal, bake sale, raffles, as well as silent and live auctions. Over \$44,000 was raised to help fund Gabrielle's transplant.

This generous and selfless act deserves honoring, and thus I stand today and recognize Marble Rock Unit 387.

HONORING LIEUTENANT SARA
PLATT MOSER'S SERVICE TO
THE UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Sara Platt Moser for her service to the United States House of Representatives and the United States Coast Guard.

As some of you may know, Lieutenant Moser was detailed to the House Coast Guard Liaison office July of 2004, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with her over the past three years. My colleagues, staff, and I have valued her knowledge and understanding of the Coast Guard operational missions, day to day challenges, and roles and responsibilities.

During her career in the Coast Guard, Lieutenant Moser has served aboard the CG Cutter RELIANCE and as the Assistant Operations Officer at Coast Guard Group Saint Petersburg.

Next week, Lieutenant Moser will leave her post as the Coast Guard's Assistant House Liaison in pursuit of a new assignment within the Coast Guard Reserve.

It has been my pleasure to work with Lieutenant Moser. On behalf of the Representatives and staff who have also been fortunate enough to work with Sara, I wish her, her husband Marty and their daughter Anna, clear skies and smooth sailing.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
SERVICE AT MELEAR'S BARBECUE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, the Representatives in these hallowed halls of Congress come from every corner of the United States, and our pallets and diets are as varied as our accents.

When I say "barbecue" here in Washington that means something totally different to people from different parts of this country. In Texas, barbecue is beef. To others, barbecue is pretty much anything cooked on a grill. But in my home State of Georgia and in surrounding southern States, barbecue means only one thing: pit-cooked pork.

Americans concerned about the "McDonald's-ization" of this Nation need only come down South for some fine barbecue cuisine. While pork is always at the base of southern

barbecue, the secret is in the sauce and in the sides. Drive a hundred-mile radius from any barbecue joint in the South and the meal and preparation will probably be totally different. In parts of the Carolinas, you're more likely to get mustard-based sauce while pretty much throughout Georgia the sauce of choice is vinegar-based. In east Georgia, your side might be hash and rice; in west Georgia where I live, you'll probably get a side of Brunswick stew.

One thing that's always the same: No matter where you go in the South, the locals think their brand of barbecue beats out the rest.

Residents of Fayette County in Georgia's Third Congressional District have dined on pork barbecue and Brunswick stew and sweet tea at Melear's Barbecue for 50 years this month. Restaurants make their profits pennies on the plate and they have to sell a lot of plates to stay in business. The majority of eateries go out of business within 2 years of opening. To survive for 25 times that long testifies to the Melear family's good business sense, yes, but also to their good barbecue.

The fine Southern cuisine isn't Melear's only draw; it's also a neighborhood gathering spot for the people of Fayetteville. It's where local city council members, county commissioners and sheriff's deputies meet up to plot plans, and it's where aspiring politicians running statewide in Georgia head to shake hands with the community's leaders.

Melear's is a special barbecue restaurant in that it's open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I confess that as a longtime homebuilder in Fayette County, there was a time when I started every day off right with a heaping breakfast served up by Kenny Melear.

The people of Fayette County and I personally am thankful for 50 years of fine meals and good company at Melear's. I congratulate Kenny and his family for a half-century of success and send best wishes for a half-century more. And with those best wishes, I'd like a barbecue plate with Brunswick stew and a big glass of sweet tea.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DORO-
THEA TOWLES CHURCH, FASHION
MODEL AND DESIGNER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize, honor, and pay tribute to the significant, groundbreaking achievements of the talented Dorothea Towles Church, who overcame the many obstacles placed in her way to become the first successful black fashion model. She was the seventh of eight children, born on July 26, 1922 in Texarkana, Texas. She began her college education at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, majoring in biology. However, after moving to Los Angeles to live with her wealthy uncle after the death of her mother, she transferred to the University of Southern California and received a master's degree in education. While present in Los Angeles, she began to generate an interest in acting but was discouraged by the lack of black actors in the entertainment industry. Instead, she became a model for black magazines and fashion shows in the area.

Dorothea Church's unprecedented success came at the young age of twenty-seven when

she was vacationing in Paris to listen to her sister, Lois Towles, sing with Fisk University. Church's great beauty and striking presence were extraordinary. Her beauty and talent were indisputable and she made a breakthrough in the most famous and prestigious fashion market in the world when she was signed by Christian Dior as a high-fashion model. For the first time in her life, Church was not impacted by racial intolerance. Church once stated, "If you're beautiful, [the French] don't care what color you are."

Even though many racial barriers were overcome, Church still had to deal with the innate prejudices that many people had towards African-Americans. Church had been forbidden to model and display high fashioned pictures in predominantly black magazines. The industry's excuse was that it was meaningless to display such photographs because the black community was not interested in the clothing. Or perhaps they didn't believe the black community could afford such clothing. Either way, Church used her power and prestige and was able to open the door for other aspiring black models by extending her appearances in the white fashion magazines to appear in a newly founded black owned Ebony magazine.

Dorothea Towles Church, the gorgeous and influential fashion model, couture designer, and black activist, bridged a divide between the races in high-fashion that appeared to be insurmountable. Church was an inspiration to all African-Americans who ever had an impossible dream. After her death from heart and kidney disease on July 7, 2006, there has been a renewed appreciation of Church's triumphs and accomplishments. She was, and continues to be a perpetual role model who brought pride to her people and community and who continues to serve as an important role model to young women with dreams today.

[From the New York Times, July 23, 2007]

OBITUARIES: DOROTHEA TOWLES CHURCH,
BLACK MODEL IN 1950'S PARIS

(By Eric Wilson)

NEW YORK.—Dorothea Towles Church, the first successful black model in Paris, who discovered personal liberation on the runways of Christian Dior and Elsa Schiaparelli in the 1950s, died July 7 in Manhattan. She was 83.

Her death was confirmed by Michael Henry Adams, a curator at the Museum of the City of New York, where she is among those to be featured in an exhibition called "Black Style Now," which will open Sept. 7.

Church's success was historic in an industry that had resisted using any but white models to represent beauty on magazine covers, in advertisements and on runways. Church was responsible for breaking down some of those barriers and was revered in France during the five years she modeled there.

"If you're beautiful, they don't care what color you are," she said of the French in postwar Paris.

"I got invited out all the time," she said in Barbara Summers's 1998 book "Black and Beautiful." "I was the only black model in Europe and I just thought I was an international person."

Her easy acceptance in Paris was reported at home in black publications, in articles about the designers she knew and about how she once dyed her hair platinum at Dior's request.

But her growing fame did not eliminate prejudice on the part of some designers. At