

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I voted to table H. Res. 767, a motion that would have delayed the business of the day in order to censure Congressman STARK. I felt that Congress should spend its time prudently, on important issues that matter to the American people, not on issues that divide us.

With that said, I do not condone or support Congressman STARK's statements of October 18, 2007. I believe that he was right to apologize on the House floor. Our brave men and women fight wars because they believe in protecting American citizens and their freedoms.

Just a few days after Mr. STARK made his comments, I visited our wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and I saw their determination and patriotism. I could not be more proud of our troops serving around the world, and I will continue to work hard to provide them with the best supplies and protection when they are in battle, and then, the best care when they return home.

HONORING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Congressman MCCARTHY, to congratulate the Bakersfield Fire Department on the celebration of their 130th anniversary.

The Bakersfield Fire Department dates back to 1877, when community members recognized a need for a well-organized, professional fire department and held local fundraisers to buy equipment. Since those early days, the department has expanded and now serves the public with 13 engines, 3 ladder trucks and over 180 firefighters.

For over a century, the Bakersfield Fire Department has served the Bakersfield community, and their deep and longstanding commitment to public safety is evident by the many public education programs they conduct every year. Throughout the year, the department hosts many informational sessions such as: fire safety and home evacuation, the installation and maintenance of smoke detectors, earthquake preparedness and chemical safety. Bakersfield's firefighters also deliver presentations in local classrooms, educating our children on helping to make their communities a safe place to live.

Through the efforts of their public education and fire prevention services division, the firefighters are working hard to ensure fire disasters never occur in the first place. However, should the worst occur, the operations, training and arson divisions stand ready to assist our citizens at a second's notice.

The Bakersfield Firefighters have always prided themselves on serving the community not only through first-rate emergency services while on-the-job, but also a commitment to

volunteerism that extends beyond their job responsibilities. As active members of the community, the firefighters are involved in a wide range of volunteer activities, from serving on local boards of community organizations to helping disadvantaged children get school supplies for the upcoming school year.

The 130th anniversary of the Bakersfield Fire Department is a perfect opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women who risk their lives every day for the safety of our community. Often, when people are running out of buildings, away from the danger, these brave men and women are the ones running towards the flames. They are our everyday heroes and both my community and myself are eternally grateful for their service.

IN HONOR OF DR. ELAINE MAIMON

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Elaine Maimon as Governors State University's fifth president.

I am proud to represent Governors State University, the only public university in the Chicago's south suburbs. Established in 1969, GSU's student body currently numbers 6,000 students, consisting primarily of young adults transferring from community colleges as well as older working adults returning to complete their education and advance their lives.

On November 3, GSU will formally install Dr. Elaine Maimon as its fifth president.

Dr. Maimon will lead a university committed to the principles of diversity. Forty-five percent of GSU's students are minority. Thirty-one percent of its faculty is minority—double the national average.

Dr. Maimon will lead a university that is accessible. A study conducted by the Lumina Foundation has recognized GSU as the most accessible university in the region.

Dr. Maimon will lead a university that meets the highest standards of demonstrable academic quality. Eighty percent of its faculty hold doctoral degrees or the highest degree in their field. The university itself is fully accredited, as is each program with an associated national accrediting body.

Dr. Maimon will lead a university connected with its community. Approximately 25,000 elementary, middle-school, and high school students visit Governors State each year for educational and cultural experiences. GSU faculty members work closely with local governments, school districts, and law enforcement agencies to help meet the needs of the region. The university's business development center has helped secure nearly \$55 million in financing since 2000 and has created and retained more than 1,100 jobs in the region.

More than 30,000 men and women have graduated from GSU since its founding. Most graduates still reside in the region, where they serve as teachers, healthcare professionals, executives, entrepreneurs, and municipal leaders. Their lives have been transformed and their communities enriched because they had access to a quality university education.

GSU is a model for the kind of university Dr. Maimon has advocated, developed, and enriched throughout her academic career. Over

the years, she has invested her considerable talents to provide access and opportunity, to encourage dreamers to help dreams come true, and to help meet the needs of the under-represented and underserved.

She has demonstrated the integrity, vision, and commitment required to take GSU to new levels of excellence and service.

Welcome, Dr. Elaine Maimon, and congratulations, Governors State University.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1972

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the 1972 graduating class from Skyline High School in Dallas, TX. Located in my Congressional District, Skyline High School has the distinction being the first high school to offer a magnet school curriculum in the United States. As the first graduating class of our Nation's first magnet school, I am pleased to honor them today as they celebrate this important milestone in their education.

Apart of the Dallas Independent School system, Skyline's construction and development was guided by J. Stamps, the first high school principal, and Gene Davenport, the first Career Development Center Principal. Their vision for the school has helped shape it into the institution it is today, offering 22 career development clusters under the magnet school program. These exemplary cluster programs have directly yielded the creation of additional DISD magnet school. Graduates of the magnet school include authors, politicians, athletes and scholars.

Skyline High School aims to instill upon their graduates and students integrity, knowledge and ethics to prepare them for their future pursuits in life. The class of 1972 truly embodies these attributes, and is a shining example of our Dallas citizenry. Again, I am honored to congratulate them on the occasion of their 35th graduation anniversary.

HONORING JAMES ROWLAND

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. James Rowland for his years of service to the criminal justice system in California, and upon the dedication of the James Rowland Crime Victim Assistance Center in Fresno, CA.

James Rowland, now retired, has provided over 30 years of service to all aspects of the criminal justice system in California. In October 1972 he began his career as a Fresno County chief probation officer, where he worked hard to give victims the consideration, fairness, and support that he felt was lacking in the system. With these efforts he was instrumental in adapting the way the justice system handles crime victims. In 1975, as a result