

I urge my colleagues to support its expeditious passage.

HONORING KATHRYN GUSTAFSON

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the honoring of her lifetime achievement, one of Seattle's great historic organizations, the Rainier Club, the People of the State of Washington would like to hold up as a national inspiration the special record of one of our State, Nation, and world's most notable landscape architects, the distinguished and virtually peerless Kathryn Gustafson.

I have supported and honored the arts as a unique vehicle for personal growth and community enrichment. Landscape architecture in particular has the capacity to elevate the daily experiences of people from all walks of life while promoting harmony and balance between people and nature.

Ms. Kathryn Gustafson's significant contributions to the discipline of landscape architecture are as impressive as they are vast in geography, style, theme and dimensions ranging from 1 acre to 150 acres.

As the BBC noted in a 2002 article, Ms. Gustafson's work "is about harmony between the land and the mind, body and soul, she says, and harmony between the site's past and how it can be adapted for the future."

My home city of Seattle has been the beneficiary of her fine touch with projects such as Seattle's City Hall Plaza and the McCaw Hall Opera House.

From Seattle to London and Paris to Beirut, Kathryn Gustafson's work in designing landscapes for complex, high-use spaces has enriched the lives of countless people. A sampling of her works include The Square of Human Rights in Evry, France; the Square Rachmaninov in Paris; the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park, London; the Museum of Art at the University of Michigan; and countless others.

While Ms. Gustafson's awards are too numerous to list, she has been honored with the prestigious 2007 National Heritage of the 20th Century Award, bestowed by the French Minister of Culture; the 2003 Design Merit Award of the American Society of Landscape Architects for her work on the Arthur Ross Terrace at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City; and in 2001 the esteemed Chrysler Design Award, which is described by Chrysler as honoring the "achievements of individuals who have consistently championed seminal works of architecture and design, and significantly influenced modern American culture."

But perhaps the most enduring honor of all is to lay claim to the translation of one's talents and vision into works that lift the spirits of millions of world citizens each and every day, and for decades and perhaps centuries to come.

We in Washington's Seventh Congressional District give thanks to Kathryn Gustafson for her unique abilities and for sharing them with so many of her fellow citizens in the public sphere. We are proud to have such a distinguished architect among us.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH ALISHA NUMBERS FOR COACHING THE HILAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Alisha Numbers showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Alisha Numbers was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Numbers has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Alisha Numbers for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

KRISTEN VASQUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kristen Vasquez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Kristen Vasquez is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kristen Vasquez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kristen Vasquez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING CREATION OF REFUGEE POPULATION

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, this week the House passed House Resolution 185, which expresses the sense of the House regarding the existence of refugee populations

in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf region. In addition to the international concern about Palestinian refugees, this resolution calls attention to the injustices suffered by Jews and other ethnic groups that have lived as minorities in the region. I fully support this resolution's call for recognition of the rights of former Jewish, Christian, and other refugees from Arab countries.

While much of the resolution is important and sets forth historically accurate information, the final paragraph of the resolving clause conditions resolution of "all refugees displaced from Arab countries." I share the goal of resolving all refugee issues in the Middle East, but I do not believe it is likely that they can be resolved through the Annapolis process or some future Israeli-Palestinian negotiating process. In my view, imposing such a condition will likely doom Annapolis and any subsequent good-faith effort to follow the roadmap to a permanent two-state solution first laid out in 2003. I certainly hope that all Middle Eastern refugee issues can and will be resolved, including refugees of the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and other minority faiths, but I cannot support linking the resolution of all Middle Eastern refugee issues to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It's not fair to Israelis or to Palestinians to tie the resolution of their conflict to a global resolution of all Middle Eastern refugee issues.

I also disagree with the way the U.S. Congress, by passing this measure, has imposed new stipulations for any agreement, which effectively ties the hands of the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators.

These negotiators already have enough roadblocks to dismantle; the last thing that they need is the U.S.

Congress trying to prescribe a certain method or outcome on a difficult issue in the negotiations, which is the refugee issue. Many of my colleagues and I believe the Annapolis negotiations have not gone as well as we hoped, but they are still—for the moment—moving forward. Rather than trying to impose a particular outcome on refugee issues, the Congress should express its support of the process and encourage the parties to work toward resolution of the issues they have already agreed are most essential.

Again, I favor reducing the impediments to a final resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Instead, this week's resolution raises a new roadblock to the implementation of the roadmap. I urge all parties to support the peace process as they carefully balance the interests of all refugees. Let's support the negotiations, move the panics to final status, and work towards of vision of peace.

TRIBUTE TO 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. BESSIE (DAVIS) WYNN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Bessie (Davis) Wynn, a poet, born April 5, 1908 in Carr, Florida.

Mrs. Wynn is the daughter and second child of James Stephen Davis II and Annie Elizabeth Ware Davis. As a child she went to

school at St. Paul AME Church in Blountstown, Florida since there were no other school systems available to Black children there. She first started doing poetry as a child when she noticed that the other children were not doing well with their Easter speech. She prayed to God to give her the power to help them, so she memorized all their speeches so that if they forgot a word she would be able to tell them. This was the beginning of a calling that has expanded for most her life. Her first poem she recited was "I'm Methodist bred and Methodist born, and when I die I'll be Methodist gone." As she learned poems she would mix other things in them to give them more flare. She moved to Pensacola when she was a teen to work and help out at home, but had to return to help take care of her siblings when her mother died.

In 1925 she married Reverend Samuel Wynn and had four children, one son, Samuel Jr. (deceased), and three daughters, Mary Catherine, Annie Laura, and Jimmie Ola. She lived in different places because her husband was a minister and settled down in Blountstown where she has lived in the same house for more than 70 years. In her younger days she made and sold jewelry as well as working in the lunch room at Mayhaw School. She was a den mother for FHA and made the basketball uniforms for the first girl's team at Mayhaw. She was elected as queen of St. Paul AME Church and won the talent competition in the Golden Girls contest held in Blountstown.

She worked for almost 40 years for the Hollinger family where she was forced to retire after out-living her employers. She was in her 80s at the time of her retirement. She also took in laundry and was a seamstress as well.

Mrs. Wynn is best known for her poetry and recitations, which she has performed along the eastern seaboard, including New York, and in Bermuda. She is now a great-great grandmother and still continues to delight audiences with her recitations and her quick wit and entertaining personality. I am privileged to honor the life of this centenarian and life long Floridian. Happy Birthday Mrs. Wynn and best wishes.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LEO KOLLIGIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California, Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA, Congressman GEORGE RADANOVICH, and Congressman DEVIN NUNES to pay tribute to the life of Leo Kolligian of Fresno, California, who recently passed away at 90 years of age. Mr. Kolligian was an ambitious man who made lasting, positive impacts on California's Central Valley. He leaves behind a loving family including his wife June, his son Lee Jay, a daughter-in-law Maria and his three grandchildren Tyler, Kyle, and Kate.

Leo was born in Fresno in August of 1917. After graduating from Fresno State, Leo spent time in Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in order to obtain his Juris Doctorate. Leo soon began serving as the United States Deputy At-

torney General in Sacramento, before venturing into the development industry throughout Fresno, Merced, and Madera counties where his impressive work is still appreciated today. In 1985, Leo was appointed to the University of California Board of Regents by the Governor of California. Leo was then elected Chairman of the Board, wherein he was a driving force in the establishment of the University of California, Merced—the Valley's only UC campus.

While achieving numerous successes and accolades for his service, Leo still found time to dedicate to the Boalt Hall Law School Board of Trustees, the American Cancer Society, the Saint Agnes Medical Center Board of Trustees, and the Fresno Metropolitan Museum. Leo earned a reputation as a passionate advocate for education and a supporter of many worthwhile charitable organizations. The legacy of his support for education is forever preserved on the University of California Merced campus with the establishment of the Leo S. Kolligian Library. Despite his many contributions and accomplishments, Leo remained a humble, grateful man who never forgot the values for which he stood—hard work, honesty and integrity.

It goes without saying that Leo Kolligian had a strong positive influence on the region. His lifelong commitment to the betterment of the entire San Joaquin Valley will forever live in the lives of the people he so graciously touched. We are honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man who will never be forgotten.

HOMESCHOOLING IS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, homeschooling has been a major part of this Nation's history since its founding. In fact, when the Constitution was written nearly everyone was homeschooled. Many of our country's greatest leaders received quality education at home including: George Washington, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, General George S. Patton, Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, John Quincy Adams, Patrick Henry, James Madison, Davy Crockett, and General Douglas MacArthur.

From 1620 until the mid-1800s, most parents in America taught their children to read at home. Students would then attend university systems that were operated by religious leaders. Education was voluntary and yet literacy rates in colonial America were significantly higher than they are today.

Across the United States today more than 2.1 million children are homeschooled. Studies have confirmed that children who are educated at home consistently score higher on achievement tests and college entrance exams than non-homeschooled children. These graduates then go on to act as responsible parents and citizens in the workplace and the home.

Now judges on the California appellate court, want to overturn not only hundreds of years of tradition, but the United States Constitution by denying parents their constitu-

tionally protected right to homeschool their children. According to the California court, parents who homeschool their children ought to be fined or sent to jail.

Who do these judges think they are?

Apparently, they don't believe they have a responsibility to uphold the Constitution of the United States. If they did they would have known that the Supreme Court has already addressed the fundamental and constitutional rights of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children and they have found in favor of parents.

In *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, decided in 1972, the Supreme Court issued a ruling in favor of Amish parents who wanted to remove their children from public school after the 8th grade because it violated their religious beliefs. The Court held that the compulsory attendance law unduly burdened the free exercise clause in the First Amendment of the Constitution.

In *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, decided in 1925, the Supreme Court invalidated legislation that required parents to send their children to public schools. The Court found that the law unreasonably interfered with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

Again in *Meyer v. State of Nebraska*, decided in 1923, the Supreme Court struck down a law that prohibited parents from letting their children learn a foreign language before the 8th grade. The Court held that the liberty guaranteed in the 14th Amendment protected the rights of parents to control the education of their own children.

In accordance with the Constitution, Supreme Court case law clearly supports the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

It's about time for the judges out in California to pick up the U.S. Constitution, look at Supreme Court case precedent, and issue a new ruling that is consistent with the freedoms this country was founded on.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO 2008 JOHNSON COUNTY MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARD WINNERS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note an important event in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. On April 28, 2008, the Volunteer Center of Johnson County in Overland Park, KS, will honor outstanding youth volunteers. Eighty young people have been nominated by school personnel and nonprofit organizations for their dedication and service to the community. Youth volunteerism continues to grow and be a strong force in Johnson County. These 104 young people exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and giving back to their community. It is my honor to recognize each student volunteer and their schools by listing them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Ben Ackerman, Blue Valley North, Leawood; Molly Allison-Gallimore, Home School, Spring Hill; Miriah Anderson, Olathe Northwest, Olathe; Sydney Ayers, Barstow, Leawood; Amir Bachelani, Olathe Northwest, Olathe;