

HONORING BOB IDEN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize to Dr. Bob Iden for his 11 years of outstanding service to Lake Highlands High School and his community.

After graduating from Lake Highlands High School, Dr. Iden attended Kilgore College on a football scholarship and finished his bachelor's and master's degree at North Texas University. Upon graduating, he continued to use his athletic background as a coach and teacher for the Richardson Independent School District for nine years. After working for the administration, Dr. Iden was hired to be the principal at his high school alma mater, Lake Highlands High School.

During his eleven years as principal, Dr. Iden's school received numerous honors under his leadership. In 2002, Lake Highlands High School was named a Blue Ribbon School, one of the highest honors a school can receive. In addition to numerous students being named National Merit Scholars, this year one of his students was named a Rhodes Scholar. Dr. Iden has received national recognition in Newsweek and U.S. News and World Report for his achievements, and he has become a tremendously well-respected and valued member of the Lake Highlands community.

This year Dr. Iden will retire from his career in education. I would like to wish Dr. Iden the best of luck in his future endeavors. While his time as an educator has come to an end, the results of his hard work will no doubt continue to be seen for generations to come.

Madam speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Dr. Bob Iden for his devotion to education and for helping to shape a brighter future for our community and our country.

HONORING BARBARA AND EDWARD COGAN

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Barbara and Edward Cogan, educators who both recently retired after more than 30 years of distinguished service. Day after day they energetically taught our youngsters valuable life skills, while raising their family in the great community of Hacienda Heights, California, and volunteering with programs that have enhanced education throughout the 38th Congressional District.

Barbara Ruth Cogan grew up in the great city of Montebello, California, and began teaching in 1970 at Belvedere Elementary School. She later joined the staff of Basset High School in 1975 after receiving her credential in Special Education. Over the past 33 years there she has worked in the OH (Orthopedically Handicapped) department, providing tireless support to her students and always strove to ensure that each and every young adult in her classes reached their full potential.

Edward Cogan grew up in East Los Angeles and began his career in the field of mathematics as an engineer in Pomona, California. Starting in 1972 he also began teaching, working in both the Hacienda/La Puente and Los Angeles Unified School Districts, finally retiring from El Sereno Middle School in Los Angeles. His lessons on computer science and programming were years ahead of the internet revolution and provided a generation of students with the inspiration to pursue further careers in technology.

Barbara and Edward also spent many years volunteering in the 38th District. Many of their summers were spent contributing to the programs of the Youth Science Center in Hacienda Heights, an organization dedicated to inspiring people of all ages to discover the excitement of science and technology. Their involvement as parents also extended to countless hours of enthusiastic support to local schools, little leagues, and youth activities.

Madam Speaker, today I would like to personally acknowledge and congratulate Barbara and Edward Cogan for their many years of dedicated work and I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding their efforts as educators. I wish them both continued success, health and happiness in the future.

HONORING THE ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding results achieved by the Assumption High School's Girls' Basketball Team who won the Iowa Class 2A 2008 Iowa State Championship.

I congratulate the Assumption Knights for defeating the Mar-Mac Bulldogs 46-27 on Friday, April 29, 2008, at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.

This victory was the result of a remarkable defense that held their opponent to 30 percent shooting in the championship game, and an even stronger offense that shot 61 percent from the field in the second-half of the championship.

From 2004 to 2007, the Lady Knights won 94 percent of their regular season games only to finish just shy of the state championship. But in 2008, the Knights' perseverance was rewarded! They finished a perfect 27-0 and brought Assumption High School its first girls' basketball state championship!

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Assumption High School. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team says it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This past season, Assumption High School proved just that.

HONORING A FALLEN HEALTHCARE WORKER

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, several months ago, the Kingsbridge Heights Rehabilitation Center in the West Bronx unilaterally decided to stop making payments to the health care fund for its employees. Before some of my colleagues "tisk tisk, well that's just the free market at work"—as the Daily News and their award-winning columnist, Errol Louis, pointed out—this center has made \$5.2 million in profits last year and its CAO, Helen Sieger, made \$700,000 in salary—all of it paid for by Medicaid funds, our tax dollars.

Audrey Smith-Campbell and 220 of her colleagues decided they weren't going to take it; they were going to go on strike. Audrey Smith-Campbell was not a union activist or an ideologue. She was for 30 years a certified nurse assistant, caring for our parents and our grandparents, giving them dignity in their most vulnerable moments. She knew she wasn't ever going to get paid what she was worth but she wanted to be paid at least enough to live on.

Audrey Smith-Campbell is dead. She died after having a severe asthma attack because she couldn't afford to pay for her medication when she was on strike. She should be honored for the way she lived—and we should all be ashamed for the reasons she died.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT ERISA AMENDMENTS OF 2008

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Pension Protection Act ERISA Amendments of 2008, PPAEA. Although I voted "no" on final passage of the Pension Protection Act, PPA, in 2006 due to a number of provisions, which put thousands of New Jersey jobs and retirees' plans at risk, I do believe there are many beneficial aspects of the law that are helping to protect the retirement plans of working Americans and retirees across the country.

For workers retired from a single-employer plan, PPA provided a better method of ensuring that an employer may continue to offer retirement benefits to their employees by meeting their plan financing obligations. This change made it far less likely that taxpayers would have to step in and pay the bill for thousands of retirees. PPA also provided smaller businesses with a bit more flexibility, by giving some of them a new plan option. One such option is known as the "Defined Small Employer Defined Benefit Plan" or "DB(k)," which I authored. DB(k) relieves employers of the administrative burden tailored for large plans and provides them with the best of both the defined benefit and defined contribution world.

For people who work for or are retired from multi-employer plans, the 2006 law gives those employers—and the funds to which they