

was a finalist in 2004 for Iowa High School Athletic Association Athletic Director of the Year. In 2001 Mr. Kibby received the IHSAA Bernie Saggau Award of Merit.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Kibby for his steadfast dedication to education and congratulate him on the honor of being inducted into the Iowa Athletic Directors Hall of Fame.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMES P. HAYES, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. James P. Hayes, Jr.

Jim was born in Brewton, Alabama, and graduated from T.R. Miller High School. He then received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Industrial Engineering from the University of Alabama. While at the university, he was a member of the Tau Beta Pi honor fraternity and the Delta Kappa Epsilon social fraternity.

Jim's many years of public service began when he joined former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman's administration in 1999 and served as revenue commissioner. He later served as director of the Alabama Development Office, executive secretary, land commissioner, and senior advisor to Governor Siegelman. Jim also served as director of planning and acquisitions for the Louisiana Land and Exploration Company, and he was director of First Commercial Bank in Birmingham and BancTrust Financial in Mobile.

Not only was he a dedicated public servant, but Jim was also an active civic leader. He was a past president of the Supporters Board of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. He was a supporter of the Lakeshore Foundation, the Crippled Children's Foundation, the Greater Birmingham Humane Society, and numerous other charitable foundations.

In 2002, Jim became president of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama and restructured the group. Jim led the EDPA out of debt, while working tirelessly to improve the lives of all Alabama citizens.

The work of Jim Hayes did not go unnoticed. In 1994, the University of Alabama named him its Alumnus of the Year. And, he was recently honored when the University of Alabama's James P. Hayes Moral Forum was endowed in his name. In 2004, the University of Alabama bestowed Jim an honorary doctorate and named him a Distinguished Engineering Fellow. In recognition of all his wonderful work, Jim received the Outstanding Civic Leader Award on National Philanthropy Day in 2007.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated businessman, public servant, husband, and friend to all. Jim Hayes will be deeply missed by his wife, Ann Beauchamp Hayes; his sisters, Margaret Hayes Brunstad and Susan Hayes Curry; his five nieces, and his nephew—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT
ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE
ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, I join U.S. and international labor organizations in their strong concern about this bill.

As introduced, the bill goes a long way to improve upon the President's request. The human rights protections have been strengthened, but must be further improved.

We must ensure that before any agreement is authorized and funded, the most basic human and labor rights have been guaranteed.

I have strong concerns about abuses committed by Mexican and some of the Central American law enforcement agencies.

Labor activists and community leaders have been harassed, arrested, and physically assaulted. Many live in fear for themselves and for their families.

I am concerned that these same law enforcement officials will be receiving military-style training, transportation, and weapons. Do we want to be putting military helicopters and weaponry in their hands?

We must proceed with extreme caution on this proposal. I will have to oppose the legislation in its current form. I hope that we will be able to address the concerns of human and labor rights leaders here at home and in the Merida nations when the bill is in conference with the Senate version.

CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION
AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of passing meaningful climate change legislation that includes programs to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Climate change is one of the most urgent issues of our time and will affect the whole world, but the brunt of the climate burden will undoubtedly be taken by the poorest populations.

Low-lying coastal areas and urban inner cities are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The construction of interstate highways has concentrated greenhouse gases in urban communities and increased the prevalence of asthma in those areas. 70 percent of African-American people live near environmentally unfriendly industries like coal fired plants. These plants emit greenhouse gases and other pollutants that adversely affect the air quality in the communities around them.

The issue of climate change is not only about African-Americans, but a much broader Black community. The Black Diaspora and Africans are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of environmental inaction. It is estimated that 75–250 million Africans can be affected by the stresses that climate change

has on water supply and a rapidly changing ecosystem.

The ingenuity of the people of the United States will allow our country to become a leader in curbing global warming by paving the way with well-planned legislation and creating jobs that will boost the economy. Prompt, decisive action is critical, since global warming pollutants can persist in the atmosphere for more than a century.

The most important thing to remember is that the most expensive policy is that of doing nothing. We cannot afford not to take action. The impact that climate change has on our ecosystems, health, and food and energy costs is irreversible. By taking aggressive action on this urgent issue, we are showing our constituents and the world that climate change is highly prioritized by the United States and furthermore, it determines the decisiveness and speed with which we as a country will confront this issue in the future.

IN HONOR OF SAMEER MISHRA,
SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING
BEE CHAMPION

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, on May 30, 2008, Sameer Mishra, an eighth grader at West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School in West Lafayette, Indiana, made his family, school, city and State proud when he won the 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Sameer outlasted 287 other competitors to become this year's champion.

In order to become the National Spelling Bee Champion, Sameer had to spell many complex words. The final word that stood between him and his victory was "guerdon"—meaning a reward. After 3 years of hard work, he finally received his ultimate "guerdon".

Before Sameer's spelling bee days, he watched his big sister, Shruti, compete in the National Spelling Bee, and he told his family that one day he would win the Scripps National Spelling Bee. True to his promise, he won the title on the very last opportunity that he was eligible.

This was Sameer's fourth and last year in the competition. In 2005 he tied for 98th place. He made a huge jump in 2006 when he received 14th place, and last year he placed a well respected 16th.

When he is not out-spelling middle school students from across the Nation, Sameer loves to read and participates in his school's book club. He enjoys playing computer and video games, as well as board games. Sameer has played the violin for 4 years in his school orchestra. He also likes to ride his bike and hang out with his friends. His favorite subjects are science and math.

Sameer is a competitive student. He participates in contests such as Spell Bowl, Academic Super Bowl and Indiana State School Music Association. With his spelling bee days behind him, Sameer looks forward to high school and lofty goals that include a career as a neurosurgeon.

Sameer Mishra is a remarkable young man. His competitive spirit and drive will take him far in life. His ability to set goals and work