

community asks for and gets chaos." Tragically, since the Moynihan Report was issued, the number of fatherless homes has more than tripled. Is it any wonder, then, that our society has the problems that it does?

Several studies conducted in recent years emphasize the importance of fathers in the well-being of their children. Children living without their fathers are 5 times more likely to live in poverty as those who live with both parents. Not living with both parents quadruples the risk of having an affective disorder, such as depression, and are nearly twice as likely to be diagnosed with breathing problems such as asthma. Cigarette, alcohol, and drug use, and violent crime rates are all significantly lower for children that come from two parent households. Children with fathers are half as likely to drop out of school, half as likely to repeat a grade, and much more likely to get A's, enjoy school, and participate in extracurricular activities. And where fathers were present,

young men were more likely to grow up to become good fathers themselves.

It would be naïve for me to suggest that the simple presence of a father guarantees the success of their children and a life without problems. But the evidence is overwhelming that fathers do play a vital role in the growth and development of their children. So, Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to celebrate Fathers' Day this weekend, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution that expresses our appreciation for the hard work that fathers do in providing for their families, for modeling good relationships, and for raising their children to be responsible citizens of this great country.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take just a moment to honor my own father, Wilbur Tiahrt. Truly a member of the Greatest Generation, he raised me and my siblings to be people of integrity, to value our families, and to appreciate and cherish the freedoms we

have in America today. Seven years ago, my father underwent open heart surgery. That experience has served as a very personal reminder to how short life is, and each Fathers' Day I am especially grateful for the time that I have with my father.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, on June 9, I was touring flood damaged parts of my district in Iowa and was not present for votes. Had I been present for Rollcall votes 388, 389 and 390, I would have voted "yes".