

IN HONOR OF DIANE YOUNG

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Diane Young of Pajaro, California. Diane passed away on January 28, 2009 at the age of sixty-five, after leaving the Pajaro community a better place to live and work. She was an extraordinary community leader who needed no official title to make a significant difference in the lives of every resident of Pajaro.

Diane was born on November 25, 1943 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She graduated from Southwest High School in Minneapolis. After meeting her late husband Pete, they both embarked on a path that would lead them to a small Central Coast community that could greatly benefit from their generosity of heart and tireless commitment to helping others achieve their dreams, particularly the youth of Pajaro.

In 1983, she launched Young's Tire Service with her husband and son in Pajaro, California. Diane Young prided herself on the family business, which she maintained and participated in throughout her illness. Her old school business habits were rooted in an unshakable work ethic. Because she did not rely on computers for her business operations, Young's Tire Service was able to continue serving the community through the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and a massive flood in 1995. There was never a shortage of customers congregating at the shop, and the influx of well wishers following her death speaks to how Diane touched the hearts of everyone she met.

It was Diane's business that became the catalyst for her lifelong community activism. After three violent killings, one of which occurred right outside her store, Diane decided she wanted to see a safer community, one filled with happiness and pride, not fear. She organized Together in Pajaro to accomplish this goal. TIP is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to community improvement and safety. Diane, along with her late husband Pete, founded Boy Scout Troop 505 15 years ago, to provide constructive alternatives for youth in Pajaro. These two organizations are just a small measure of Diane's dedication and contributions to making her community, as well as the lives of those who live in it, not only better but more meaningful.

Madam Speaker, Diane Young touched the hearts of everyone she came into contact with, and was a pillar of her community. I am certain I speak for the entire House in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Diane's two children, her son Pete Young of Pajaro, California and daughter Shelia Young of Oakley, California.

REGARDING IRAN'S ENDORSEMENT OF ANOTHER HOLOCAUST DENIAL CONFERENCE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to share my profound disappointment in the con-

tinued extraordinary anti-Israel rhetoric and policies of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He is again endorsing a conference that denies the horror—indeed, the existence—of the Holocaust and that places blame for much of the world's woes with the people of Israel.

Tehran's Sharif University of Technology conference, entitled Holocaust? A Sacred Lie by the West, is in and of itself disturbing. It is evidence that the hatred that underlies the violence in the Middle East is, regrettably, alive and well. But, for the head of a nation to lend the imprimatur of government support to such an event is real cause for alarm. President Ahmadinejad, in his statement of support for the conference, stated that the "Zionist regime is the 'illegitimate child' of the Holocaust phenomenon." This is dangerous rhetoric.

There are millions of peace-loving peoples in the Middle East—Israelis, Palestinians, Iranians, Iraqis; indeed from every nation of the region. They will never be able to experience peace and security as long as hatred like this is spoken, taught, and endorsed by the leaders of the region.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has just announced his intention to run for another term as Iran's President. I am hopeful that the people of Iran will send him a message that they want to live in peace with their neighbors and that they want to put an end to the cycle of violence and hatred that conferences like this one epitomize.

TRIBUTE TO LIZABETH FOX

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Lizabeth Fox of Decorah Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K-12 schools.

I congratulate Lizabeth Fox on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Lizabeth in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FERS RE-DEPOSIT ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the FERS Re-Deposit

Act, which will help incentivize former federal employees to return to the civil service by allowing them to buy back into the Federal Employee Retirement System.

In no short time, the federal government will face a serious workforce shortage crisis. In ten years, 90 percent of our nation's civil service federal executives will be over the age of 50 and many will be nearing retirement. This coming brain drain threatens the stability and functioning of essential government functions. At a time when the American people are demanding efficient and effective government—from the implementation of public programs to the oversight of the Iraq war—we are about to lose many of our dedicated and most knowledgeable professionals.

The FERS Re-Deposit Act will begin to help with the coming workforce shortage. The FERS Redeposit Act would allow individuals who left the federal government, and received a refund of their Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) contributions, to re-enter government service without losing their accrued annuity. Instead of forfeiting credit earned during their prior service, returning employees would be able to redeposit their cashed out annuity upon re-employment. This benefit is already available to federal employees who are registered under the older Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

I have received many letters of former federal employees who work in the private sector, but would like to return to civil service. Many of these well-qualified men and women are choosing to remain in the private workforce because the costs to re-entering the federal workforce are too high. In an economy where people will change jobs many times over the course of their careers, a reinvestment option under FERS will make government service more competitive, incorporating the flexibility and mobility that are so common in the private sector and in businesses of the new economy.

As more and more FERS employees leave the federal government and later wish to re-enter federal service, a redeposit option would provide the incentive needed to bring these individuals back into government service.

Madam Speaker, now is the time to act before the workforce shortage hits our civil service the hardest. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to make federal service more attractive by supporting the FERS Re-Deposit Act.

IN COMMEMORATION OF MR. SANTONIO HOLMES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the achievement of Mr. Santonio Holmes, who on February 1, 2009 was named the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XLIII.

Mr. Holmes was born in Belle Glade, FL, a part of my Congressional district. Mr. Holmes came from humble roots and through hard work and dedication, he made it to the National Football League (NFL). Mr. Holmes' athletic prowess and entrepreneurship developed from an early age; as a young boy growing up in Belle Glade, he would catch rabbits by hand

and sell them. Mr. Holmes attended Glades Central High School in Belle Glade, where he excelled in football, basketball and track. He went on to attend College at Ohio State from 2003 to 2005, where he starred as a wide receiver. In 2006 he was picked 25th in the first round of the NFL draft.

Mr. Holmes' performance in the Pittsburgh Steelers' victory over the Arizona Cardinals was nothing short of tremendous. He caught 9 receptions for a total of 131 yards. It was his last reception, however, that was most significant. With less than a minute remaining, the Steelers trailed the Cardinals 23–20. Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, in an improvised play, lofted the ball toward the right corner, over the hands of three defenders. Mr. Holmes leaped to get it and managed to drag both feet in bounds, his toes barely scraping the grass before he tumbled out of bounds. This touchdown and the subsequent conversion gave the Steelers a winning margin of 27–23.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Holmes' recognition as the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XLIII is well deserved. Mr. Holmes' personal story also highlights the promise and opportunity of our great nation, that all Americans, even those from the most humble of backgrounds, may achieve tremendous things. I am extremely proud to congratulate Mr. Holmes and encourage my colleagues to join me in doing so as well.

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS
GREENBOWE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Dr. Thomas Greenbowe of Iowa State University, who has been named the 2008 Iowa Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The U.S. Professors of the Year is a prestigious program that honors outstanding college and university instructors across the country. National and state U.S. Professors of the Year Awards are given each year to teachers across the country that have touched and elevated the lives and careers of their students. Dr. Greenbowe has an accomplished history as a Professor of Chemistry at Iowa State which began in 1990.

I congratulate Dr. Thomas Greenbowe on his well-deserved Iowa Professor of the Year Award, and I'm certain that he will continue to improve Chemistry and Science education for many years to come. It is a great honor to represent Dr. Greenbowe in the United States Congress, and I wish him continued success.

THE MILITARY DOMESTIC AND
SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act. This important piece of legislation will ensure greater protections for service members and their families if they become victims of violence. It also will strengthen programs to prevent violence against fellow soldiers and military families.

Unfortunately, sexual assault and domestic violence are pervasive and serious problems throughout all branches of the military. In March 2008, the Department of Defense (DoD) released their fourth annual sexual assault report, which stated that there were 2,688 reports of sexual assault in 2007. Although this is down from the 2,947 allegations of sexual assaults reported in 2006, the DoD changed their reporting requirements from calendar year to fiscal year, so there is no way to tell if this reflects a decrease in sexual assaults or not. In 2006, there was a 24 percent increase in reported sexual assaults compared to 2005. In 2004, the DoD reported 9,000 incidents of spousal abuse. A 2005 Sexual Harassment and Assault Survey of the Service Academies found six percent of females and one percent of males said they were sexually assaulted in 2004–2005, and less than half the females who experienced sexual assault reported it. In this same survey, 60 percent of female cadets indicated sexual harassment was about the same as when they first enrolled at their academy.

While the DoD has been making efforts to improve its prevention and response to domestic and sexual violence, victim services remain incomplete and inconsistent among the various branches. There have been reports that victims advocates, charged with protecting the victim's rights, have been denied resources to do their job, and in some instances been forced off the base all together. Furthermore, DoD policies are not codified in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and do not offer the same level of rights and protections afforded to civilian victims. Perhaps most importantly, victims are unable to seek confidential counseling and treatment without fear that their records might become public if they press charges against their assailant.

My bill, the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act, seeks to bring military law up to par with civilian laws by establishing a comprehensive approach for the military to address domestic violence and sexual assault among our soldiers. Specifically, this bill will:

Establish an Office of Victims Advocate (OVA) within DoD, bring the Family Advocacy Program under OVA, and create a Director of OVA to oversee and coordinate efforts to prevent and respond to cases of family violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking with the military and among military families

Codify rights, restitution policies, treatment and other services for victims within the UCMJ, including creating comprehensive confidentiality protocols to protect the rights of victims within military law

Strengthen policies for reporting, prosecuting and treating perpetrators of violence

Create counseling and treatment programs through the Department of Veterans Affairs

The military should be at the forefront of prosecuting assailants and setting the highest standards for treatment of service men and women, or military family members, victimized by sexual assault and domestic violence. Our Armed Forces must be able to guarantee the most basic protections to ensure these victims can receive necessary counseling, treatment, and justice.

If a victim cannot access essential care for fear of stigma, threats to their career, or because they just do not know what resources are available, the military will continue to lose valuable female and male soldiers. These men and women who serve our country in uniform put themselves in harms way to protect our nation from threats at home and abroad. They deserve the same rights and protections as the civilians whose freedoms they protect. My bill ensures service members are adequately protected when dealing with the horrible tragedy of sexual assault or domestic violence.

Do not allow our brave service members to be victimized twice, once by their perpetrator and then again by the military's lack of appropriate, compassionate, and confidential treatment and response.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in cosponsoring the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH
LORENTZEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Elizabeth Lorentzen of Decorah Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Elizabeth Lorentzen on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Elizabeth in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BUDDY
HOLLY, RITCHIE VALENS, J.P.
"THE BIG BOPPER" RICHARDSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of those who lost their