

Scott Young, and everyone affiliated with the West Rowan Falcons for proving the old football adage that great defenses win championships. Congratulations to West Rowan on a spectacular season and for winning the North Carolina 3A state championship.

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS  
MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today we will vote on an important piece of legislation that discusses a problem that persists in communities across our country. This bill will show that this problem will not go away with wishful thinking and good intentions. Something must be done to prevent stalking now. We can not afford to wait. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution, do their part to make America aware of stalking, and do their utmost to prevent it's occurrence.

Every day, millions of woman and men have their lives disrupted by a stalker. While every state and DC has passed laws that make this act illegal, stalking still happens far too often. We must do everything we can to tell those being stalked that they are not alone and we will help them. We must do everything we can to tell those terrorizing their fellow man or woman with stalking that you will be caught and prosecuted.

Madam Speaker, stalking has multiple ways it can impact it's victims. Stalkers do not just harass and annoy their targets, they also cause real financial and psychological harm. 26% of stalking victims have lost time working because of their stalkers while a full 7% have been so frightened, they have not returned to work at all. Almost 30% have sought counseling because of the stalking. Overall, the prevalence of insomnia, anxiety, social dysfunction and severe depression is much higher among stalking victims.

These victims feel helpless and will do anything to control their lives again. The number of victims who drastically change their lives to get away from these individuals is staggering. Through no fault of their own, the victims often reach out to law enforcement early requesting restraining orders to prevent contact with their tormenters. These attempts rarely work and result in about 3 out of every 4 restraining orders being violated. Victims have gone so far as to move from their homes to prevent the stalker from being able to antagonize them. One in seven victims has moved in order to maintain their ability to live their life or as normally as possible.

In one out of five cases, the stalker will approach his target with a weapon to threaten or harm them. The worst is that in cases where a woman is murdered by an ex-intimate partner, nearly 90% of them were stalked prior to the homicide. This can not be allowed to go on any more. We have the means and the ability to prevent these attacks.

While technology has aided law enforcement in the ability to target stalkers it has also

been used by the stalker to target and contact victims. One in four victims have reported being stalked online. Every day women are stalked and not enough of them are reporting it. Less than half report it to law enforcement officers and only 7% contact victims groups. As the famous author Michele Archer said, "It is important that people know that stalking is a crime and that they can do something about it." This advice can help save a lot of lives.

The biggest misconception about stalking is that it only happens to women. While women are the majority of the targets, they are by no means the only gender that is stalked. Men and women are both targeted and attacked. This legislation will help bring attention to this problem that's underreported, undereducated on and overlooked far too often.

All of us, as members of Congress, want to help, and so often we disagree on how to accomplish that laudable goal. For once we can agree on a problem and can help provide a solution. Today we have that chance to make an impact upon the people who live in daily fear. We can say to them today they are not alone, we are on their side and we will do anything we can to fight for them. We can also say that stalker's days are numbered.

Madam Speaker, I urge that my colleagues to support this resolution.

PRESIDENT OBAMA AND DR.  
MARTIN LUTHER KING COUNTY

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2009*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the inauguration of President Barack Obama and in honor of the dream of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In August of 1963, Dr. King shared dream with the world, "that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" To so many, this inauguration symbolized the realization of this dream.

As the Representative of the Eighth District, I'm proud to stand before you today to recognize the importance of President Obama's place in history, and the fulfillment of the dream of Dr. King. The majority of the Eighth Congressional District of Washington is within the boundaries of King County, and in 1986, King County renamed itself in honor of Dr. King, "a man whose contributions are well-documented and celebrated by millions throughout this nation and the world, and embody the attributes for which the citizens of King County can be proud, and claim as their own."

The inauguration of President Barack Obama represented a monumental step forward in fulfilling Dr. King's vision for America. It was also a moment to celebrate our nation's freedom and cherish our democracy as we witnessed the peaceful transition of leadership between two individuals elected by a free people.

In the words of President Obama's inauguration speech: ". . . we gather because we

have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord." Just 16 days ago President Obama shared these words with the nation as he took to the oath to become the 44th President of our great nation. He shared these words, I believe, to inspire a nation facing great challenges and opportunities ahead.

I am so proud to know that, as I serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am serving in Washington, DC with a man in the White House who is the absolute embodiment of the beautiful words Dr. King spoke. With that in mind, I requested an American flag to be flown over the Capitol on Inauguration Day to present the flag to King County Executive Ron Sims and the entirety of the County Council, in remembrance of this historic day as the nation moves forward and looks to a future filled with hope and lives on in the American spirit.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND  
REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes:

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

One week ago, President Obama called for bold and swift action to address the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Millions of jobs have been lost, homes have been foreclosed, and families have been stretched to the limit. We must act now.

I join my colleagues to give the American people hope that better days are ahead. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is a downpayment on the investment of our future. It is the first vital step in an intensive effort to reinvigorate our economy by focusing on JOBS, JOBS, JOBS.

This bill will save and create three to four million jobs by immediately putting people to work rebuilding our neglected roads and bridges. Further, the legislation confronts our 21st Century energy challenges by combating climate change and creating good-paying green jobs that cannot be outsourced. The bill also provides funding for education to ensure that every American has the ability to compete with any foreign worker in the new global economy.

Additionally, the measure provides relief for those who lost their jobs and will help struggling families make ends meet while the economy recovers. In fact, if we do not pass this legislation the unemployment rate is expected to explode to staggering 12 percent.

This legislation must pass if we are to overcome the economic crisis. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.