

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MS. ALICIA FOX

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chester County resident Alicia Fox on her installation as Governor of the Northeast Potomac District of Pilot International.

Alicia has earned the promotion to this distinguished post with more than 22 years of dedicated service to her community and a faithful commitment to the mission of Pilot International.

Admired by peers in the Pilot Club of Valley Forge for her willingness to provide countless hours of volunteer service, Alicia has taught 4H students the craft of sewing, started and supervised an after-school program for local elementary school students and served several years on the board of a local Boy Scout Troop.

She also has selflessly served her church by teaching Sunday school, preparing children for sacraments, caring for the linens and as a member of the Finance Committee.

Alicia will become Governor of the Northeast Potomac District during a ceremony on May 3, 2009.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Alicia Fox on this tremendous achievement and recognizing her outstanding volunteer spirit and drive to improve the quality of life in her community.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

Statistics are handed out on this floor like candy. Because numbers are often passed off as nothing more than empty words, we fail to recognize how staggering they are. For instance, smoking-related diseases cause an estimated 440,000 American deaths each year. Smoking costs the United States over \$150 billion annually in health care costs. And a 2004 study by the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion found that cigarette smoke contains over 4,800 chemicals, 69 of which are known to cause cancer.

Ninety percent of adult smokers are addicted to tobacco before they reach the age of 18; 50 percent before the age of 14. Currently the average age of initiation to tobacco is 11.

48 million adults smoke in the U.S., which is 22.9 percent of the population overall, and 33 percent of youth currently smoke.

To be quiet honest Madam Speaker, these statistics are more than staggering—they are atrocious.

It was Irving Selikoff, a medical researcher who co-discovered a cure for tuberculosis who said, "Statistics are real people with the tears wiped away."

Those real people are our parents and children, our family and friends, who suffer the consequences of addiction to tobacco. I want my children to grow up healthy and to make healthy decisions. To help that happen, H.R. 256 will put in place the proper authority for the Food and Drug Administration to establish regulations over tobacco products. We need the FDA to protect our population from the harmful effects of cigarettes and tobacco products by being able to provide sound, scientific regulations governing these products.

Even with all the warnings, and the money spent on education campaigns, kids are still picking up smoking at the alarming rate of 3,000 a day in the United States.

The health concerns that will face these children are costly, painful, and deadly. But they are also ultimately preventable.

I ask my colleagues to please pass H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL LAFLEUR

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the inspirational story of Carol LaFleur, a resident of Brooklyn Park, MN who changed her life and is now working to change others' lives for the better as well. Mrs. LaFleur has experienced a great deal of hardship throughout her life, but after discovering the gift of education, she completely turned her life around.

Mrs. LaFleur uses her life experiences to guide others and advocate for education. In her time outside of the classroom, she speaks and mentors on issues of mental health, sexual abuse, and disability. In addition, she volunteers for these and multiple other causes. She sets a great example for all Americans, giving her time without asking for anything back.

In addition to all of her accomplishments and hours of volunteerism, she has found an outlet in writing about her experiences. She has been honored by the Arts in Recovery Program, who chose her essay to be in its exhibit booth online and at the St. Paul Art Crawl.

Madam Speaker, Carol LaFleur is an inspiration, a positive influence for so many who need hope, and a true public servant. She is a great example of the enduring American spirit.

HONORING MAITLAND KEILER OF SUMTER COUNTY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Maitland Keiler, one of my accomplished constituents who dedicated his life to improving health services in his community and beyond.

Mr. Keiler was born in 1933 in Royal, Florida to Will and Melbira Keiler. In the early 1970's, he moved to Apopka, Florida where he earned a living picking oranges. He then met four Catholic sisters who had worked to found a health clinic for farmers and migrant workers in the area, the West Orange Farmer's Clinic. Working with the sisters and at the clinic began a new chapter in Mr. Keiler's life. He eventually became one of the first African-Americans appointed to serve on the board of the West Orange Farmer's Clinic.

Wishing to bring similar services to his community which was also in dire need, Mr. Keiler approached Mr. Ellery Gray, director of the West Orange Clinic, about opening a clinic in Sumter County. In collaboration with the county, Mr. Grey and Mr. Keiler succeeded in opening "Project Health" in 1974. Once a simple, modest clinic, Project Health is today the Thomas E. Langley Medical Center. The Center has expanded to more than 41,000 square feet of combined medical, dental, behavioral health, radiology, pharmacy and administrative services

Madam Speaker, men and women like Maitland Keiler are the ones truly making a difference in their communities because of their passion and their drive. Mr. Keiler's story should serve as an inspiration to others, and I am proud to know that one of my constituents worked so hard to make his dream a reality and the lives of his fellow citizens better and healthier.

HONORING DR. ELSA GESKUS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated educator whose outstanding leadership and guidance has prepared countless teachers for rewarding classroom careers. Dr. Elsa Geskus will be retiring from Kutztown University in Berks County, Pennsylvania after serving the last 12 years as Chairwoman of the Elementary Education Department. She has earned the respect of her fellow faculty members for excellent leadership, scholarship and service.

Colleagues also praised Dr. Geskus for securing national accreditation for the Department and authoring an accreditation report

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