

and fees of expert witnesses and the reasonable costs of any test or evaluation which is found to be necessary for the preparation of the parent or guardian's case." For years, prevailing parents were awarded expert witness fees, as Congress intended. But unfortunately, while Congress was very clear in its explanation of the bill, it did not include this provision in the legislative language. In 2006, the provision was challenged and the Supreme Court ruled that because Congress did not make its intention explicit in statute, courts could no longer award these fees.

IDEA guarantees students with disabilities a free and appropriate education. But, as a result of this decision, parents can be faced with many thousands of dollars of expert witness fees in order to ensure their child gets the education plan he needs. A single expert witness can charge anywhere from \$100–\$300 per hour. Confronted with these costs, parents are discouraged or outright barred from bringing meritorious cases to secure the rights of their children. Low-and middle-income families are particularly hard hit.

Today, I introduce a bill to clarify Congress's intent and restore the expert witness fee provisions. It will allow parents to recover the high cost of expert witnesses if, and only if, they win their dispute with the school district. I want to be very clear—this bill does not impose any additional costs on school districts that comply with IDEA. The provisions apply only when a school system has been found, after an impartial hearing, to have wrongfully denied a child an appropriate education as defined in IDEA.

Madam Speaker, we must ensure that we keep the promise of IDEA and provide every child with a free and appropriate education. This bill will level the playing field and help parents be effective advocates for their children's best interests.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded vote for rollcall 293, H.J. Res. 40, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" for this measure.

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#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DECALOGUE SOCIETY ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker I rise today to thank and congratulate the Decalogue Society of Lawyers, which this year celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Founded in 1934 to fight anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination and intolerance, the Decalogue Society has a proud record of achievement. It is the oldest Jewish Bar Association in the United States, representing the values and concerns of the Jewish community

while working to protect the rights and privileges of all Americans.

All of us are proud to be a nation of laws, and we strive to ensure that "equal justice under the law" is not just a motto but a reality. The Decalogue Society recognizes that lawyers play an essential role in maintaining a free society committed to equal justice. It works to ensure that we as a nation understand and value the role of the legal profession in reaching that goal, even as its lawyers participate in social action and cooperate in diverse movements for the public welfare.

Access to competent legal representation is an essential ingredient for making sure that the laws of the land are just and fairly enforced. The Decalogue Society extends critical educational and financial support to those lawyers who work to end discrimination and represent the rights of the most vulnerable among us. The Decalogue Foundation was created in the 1960s to provide scholarships for deserving law students. It has established nine endowment funds at the Hebrew University Law School and six Chicago-area law schools. It also provides free continuing legal education to assist members and non-members alike in becoming better informed lawyers.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Decalogue Society for its commitment to the ideals of religious freedom and racial tolerance and for its efforts to encourage and assist those women and men who want to pursue future legal careers in public service. Chicago, Illinois and the United States all benefit from its activities and from its commitment to the principles of law and equality.

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#### MARISSA GARCIA

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marissa Garcia who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marissa Garcia is an 8th grader at Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marissa Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Marissa Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

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#### IN MEMORY OF F. P. SIEDENTOPF

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this oppor-

tunity to recognize the life and service of Frederick Paul Siedentopf. A 31-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Siedentopf passed away on May 25th, Memorial Day. He served with honor and distinction as an avionics technician throughout the later part of the 20th Century including active roles during the Vietnam War and the Cold War. His service and commitment to this Nation earned him broad respect by his fellow Marines as well as the Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Following his retirement as a Master Gunnery Sergeant in 1990, Siedentopf was determined to continue to give back to his country. He remained active in numerous community organizations as well as being an avid contributor to local newspapers with his frequent letters to the editor. The people of Beaufort, South Carolina were honored to have had an individual of Siedentopf's character as part of their community for several years.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Judy, their two daughters, Cindy and Debra, two grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. As we paused to recognize the service and sacrifice of so many brave Americans on Memorial Day, it is fitting that we remember the lifetime of service by Frederick Paul Siedentopf. Our Nation is blessed to have men and women of such commitment and love for their country.

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#### A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF THE REGIONAL WINNERS OF THE AMERICAN ADVERTISING FEDERATION'S 2009 NATIONAL STUDENT ADVERTISING COMPETITION

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the regional winners of the American Advertising Federation's 2009 National Student Advertising Competition.

Of the 142 schools that participated in this year's contest, 18 regional winners are gathering during the first week of June in our nation's capital for the final competition. The teams proudly represent the following distinguished colleges and universities: the University of California, Berkeley; Johnson & Wales University; The George Washington University; Syracuse University; University of Virginia; Florida State University; Ohio University; Columbia College Chicago; Northwood University; The University of Alabama; University of Minnesota; the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Texas Tech University; Portland State University; Art Center Design College-Tucson; Hawai'i Pacific University; Chapman University; and Texas Christian University.

This highly respected contest is the nation's leading competitive program to showcase emerging student talent in the advertising field. Each year, student advertising clubs at colleges and universities across the nation compete to create a winning integrated advertising campaign for the competition's sponsor.

The 2009 competition challenge is particularly innovative. For the first time in the 36 year history of the competition, the students