

Provisions of VAWA have allowed for additional training for law enforcement officers dedicated to these issues. Additionally, VAWA authorized funding for an office within the Department of Justice, which is dedicated to ending violence against women. Notably this legislation created a national domestic violence hotline, which has provided information and help to millions of women in crisis.

VAWA has brought communities together in order to address domestic violence and rally support for survivors. It is important for Congress and all Americans to recognize the achievements of this legislation. Since VAWA's inception, this country's awareness of domestic violence has increased and resources to help victims have become more readily available and accessible.

Though we have made great progress, the instances of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence are still too high. Far too many women in our great nation are victims of violence. We must take further action to keep women safe and provide justice for those who have been victims. Too many communities remain underserved and lack the resources to provide services to victims of sexual violence. We need to continue to increase awareness about sexual violence, provide funding to programs that prevent and punish that violence and educate women about the help that is available to victims.

I am proud of the achievements made in the past fifteen years, and I look forward to supporting the renewal of the Violence Against Women Act in 2010. Again, I thank my friend from New York for introducing H. Res. 738 which commemorates this landmark legislation.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT CHILES

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the actions of Robert Chiles as well as honor all American citizens who embody the spirit of our early patriots.

Beginning on April 15, 2009, Mr. Chiles began circulating a Tea Party Declaration in Springfield, Illinois, requesting the end of "massive government driven bailouts," "so-called economic stimulus plans," "trillion dollar spending schemes," and "out of control government spending."

This petition is nearly 60 feet long and contains about 1,000 signatures. The organizer, Mr. Robert Chiles of Rochester, Illinois, says that the petition is signed by "electricians, plumbers, construction workers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, ministers, teachers, democrats, republicans, law enforcement officers, retired military, stay at home moms, small business owners, you name it."

The document begins, "When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for like-minded patriotic Americans to rally as one against the powers that threaten to alter, diminish and destroy this country we love. Proper respect for the opinions of our fellow citizens requires that we should clearly state the grievances that impel us to gather at this Springfield, Illinois, tea party to protest peacefully, but passionately in the tradition of our

forefathers whose Boston Tea Party resonated around the world."

I salute these modern day patriots and want to publicly thank them for this petition.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM HOWARD BRONSON, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM MOBILE'S PRESS-REGISTER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of William Howard Bronson, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement as president and publisher of Mobile's Press-Register.

A 17-year veteran of the Press-Register, Howard brought profound changes to the paper. Under his leadership, the paper received several prestigious awards and greatly increased its readership. In the days following his retirement, the paper published a tribute stating "Howard Bronson leaves an extensive legacy of accomplishments and contributions to the southwest Alabama community and, indeed, the entire state."

Howard and his wife, Dorsey, moved to Mobile from Shreveport, Louisiana, where he was president and publisher of The Times, owned by Gannett Company, Inc. He served as president and general manager of the Newspaper Production Co., while in Shreveport from 1977 to 1991. He was regional vice president responsible for the launch and first year of operation of three USA Today print and distribution sites in Dallas, New Orleans and Houston in 1983-84.

Howard also has held regional responsibility with Gannett for publications in Monroe, Louisiana; Gainesville, Georgia; Muskogee, Oklahoma; Springfield, Missouri; Jackson, Mississippi; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and Jackson, Tennessee.

As president and publisher of the Press-Register, he was involved in a number of professional organizations, including the Alabama Press Association, the Newspaper Association of America and the American Newspaper Publisher's Association. Howard serves as a board member of several civic organizations, including the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council of Alabama, Spring Hill College and the United Way of Southeast Alabama, Inc. He is also a member of Forward Mobile and Mobile United.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated journalist, a respected executive and friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. I am certain that his family—his wife, Dorsey, and their four children—along with all those at the Press-Register and his many friends in Mobile join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his considerable service to the city of Mobile and all of southwest Alabama.

On behalf of a grateful community, allow me to wish Howard Bronson the very best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING GEAR UP DAY

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the ambitious and important work being performed every day by students, program staff, parents and teachers to ensure that college dreams become reality for students attending high poverty schools. In particular, I would like to join with GEAR UP programs across the country who celebrated GEAR UP Day on September 18, 2009.

In order to meet the challenge posed by President Obama that "by 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world," we will need to draw students from communities where high school graduation, let alone college attendance, is the exception rather than the rule. This ambitious goal, and the global competitiveness that comes with it, will require a dramatic increase in college attendance for students who are the first in their families to pursue higher education.

I want to thank the GEAR UP programs who organized these events and the elected officials who participated:

In Fairmont, West Virginia, they hosted a reception to thank the faculty and staff and to highlight the successes of GEAR UP while the Governor declared a West Virginia GEAR UP Day.

In Cleveland, the program received a proclamation from the Governor of Ohio.

In Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the Governor proclaimed September 18, 2009 as GEAR UP Day and the program celebrated with a community outreach event.

In Iowa City, a GEAR UP principal gave remarks and received proclamations from the Governor and Mayor.

In Wilburton and McAlester, Oklahoma, they received a proclamation from the Governor.

In Pago Pago, American Samoa, the program received a gubernatorial proclamation and Valasi Lam Yuen was recognized as their Teacher of the Year.

In Portland, Maine, the GEAR UP site also received a gubernatorial proclamation.

In La Grande, Oregon, the mayor officially proclaimed September 18, 2009 GEAR UP Day.

In Waco, Texas, parents, students, faculty and staff were on hand to receive a proclamation from the Mayor.

In New York City they held a National GEAR UP Day breakfast at the partner middle school for parents, students, teachers, and administrators. The middle school scholars sent an oversized thank you card to the Honorable Senator CHARLES SCHUMER. The Mayor of New York City, Michael R. Bloomberg has proclaimed September 18, 2009 as National GEAR UP Day.

In Tucson, the Mayor proclaimed GEAR UP Day and students are creating a GEAR UP Wall of Dreams.

In San Marcos, California, GEAR UP received a proclamation from the city.

In Kalamazoo, Michigan, they had an all-school assembly which included the Superintendent and Michigan State Representative Robert Jones.

In Cincinnati, students signed promise cards and invited the Mayor and grant partners to participate.