

Kunkel, and Savannah Paladin; from Penn Hills High School, Jessica Clair, Nicolette Deighan, Krysty Kunkel, Dana Lyons, Chloe Regan, and Chloe Weiss; from Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, Dani Hicks, Jordan Keitel, David Newbury, April Post, Tsu Hung Tien, and Yan Yang; from Schenley High School, Maurice Campbell, Briana Jackson, Stephen Karas, Fatima Kizilkaya, and Monique Pressley; from South Allegheny High School, Alexis Carr, Kristen Kudla, Megan Stevens, and Stephanie Taylor; from Sto-Rox High School, Adam Wayne Baker, Travis Crump, Allison Funwela, Natalie Gamble, Orlando Russell, and Elizabeth Thornton; from Trinity Christian School, Rebekah Garard; from West Mifflin High School, Tori Cooper, Victoria Donahoe, and Natalie Kerrigan; and from Woodland Hills High School, Heather Evans, Elijah Johnson, Josh Ryzdak, Stephan Spence, and Hoong Tosangchai.

I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD OETMAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Donald Oetman as he retires as Director of UAW Region 1D. A celebration of Don's life and contributions to the UAW will be held on May 21st in Grand Rapids, MI.

Donald Oetman was part of the original group that organized Micromatic Textron in Holland, MI. In 1965 they formed Local 1502 when Don was only 20 years old. He served as Vice-President of the Local and two years later became its President. During this time he held the position of steward and ex-officio member of all standing committees at Local 1502 and served as vice-chairperson of the Allegan-Ottawa CAP Council for 12 years. Don remained the Local's President and its bargaining chairperson until he was appointed to the International Union staff by then UAW President Owen Bieber and Director Robert Flierman in 1984. In June 1995 he was appointed Assistant Director of Region 1-D and elected Director at the 33rd Constitutional Convention in 2002. He was re-elected in 2006.

Committed to community involvement, Don serves on the Board of Directors and the Labor Participation Committee of Greater Kalamazoo United Way and the Holland United Way. He is co-chair of the Muskegon Area Labor/Management Joint Committee, he is on the Board of Directors of Blue Care Network, sits on the Blue Care Network Audit Committee, serves on the Economic Alliance of Michigan Board of Directors and the Board for the Alliance of Health, the Kalamazoo Area Labor/Management Committee, the Red Cross Board, sits on the Board of the Michigan State University Labor Studies Program, the Holland United Labor Building Corporation, the Michi-

gan Association of United Ways, and the Private Industry Council of Allegan and Ottawa Counties. He is a lifelong member of the Coalition for Labor Union Women.

Don is a member of the Allegan County Democratic Party and the Michigan State Democratic Party. He was a delegate to the 2000 Democratic National Convention and was an Al Gore Elector for the State of Michigan in the Electoral College. Don and his wife Corlyn have two daughters, one son and six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the work of Donald Oetman. From the age of 18 he has acted to improve the lives and working conditions in our factories and offices and many people have benefitted from his commitment to the ideals of labor. I will miss his counsel and camaraderie and I wish him the best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOSEPH PETERS, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS REGION 1

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a lifelong champion of the American labor movement, Mr. Joseph Peters, Director of the United Auto Workers Region 1, on the occasion of his retirement from the UAW. As a Member of Congress, it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Mr. Peters for his many years of service and his contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Joe Peters has been a tireless advocate for his UAW brothers and sisters. Joe started his career as a member of Local 400, while working at the Ford Paint Plant in Mount Clemens. Joe became active in the UAW in the late 1960s when he moved to work at the Ford Utica Trim plant. While at Utica Trim, Joe was elected as the Midnight Committeeman, member of the Plant Bargaining Committee, Plant Chairman, Vice President of Local 400, and President of Local 400.

In 1988, Joe was appointed to the UAW International staff by President Owen Bieber and assigned to the National Ford Department. In 1999, Joe was appointed assistant director of Region 1 under Director Kenneth Terry. Joe served as assistant Director of Region 1 until 2005, when he was elected Director in a special election.

Joe has spent his career in support of civil rights and his community. Joe is a lifelong member of the NAACP, a member of the Troy Elks club, and a strong grassroots political leader. Joe has won numerous awards for his community activism including: Civil Rights Lifetime Achievement, ARC Detroit Legacy Award, Veterans Michigan Stand Down, and the UAW Region 1 Women's Council Circle of Excellence award. Moved by the increasingly difficult economic times facing Michigan families, Joe started the "No Child Without Christmas" foundation in 2004. His foundation brings together a broad spectrum of community leaders to provide clothing, food, and gifts for thou-

sands of homeless and abused children during the holiday season each year. Joe's commitment to his community has been his personal as well as his professional legacy.

Joe has spent his career in service of others, his UAW brothers and sisters, his community, and most importantly, his large and growing family. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Mr. Joe Peters for his many contributions to our community and his leadership at the United Auto Workers Union. I wish him many more years of health, happiness, and productive service.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRVIEW SOUTH SCHOOL PENNIES FOR PEACE PROGRAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize an extraordinary group of students in Skokie, Illinois.

I would like to recognize 6th grade students Lucas Brace, Alexander Brown, Soretti Donka, Lily Griffin, J.D. Kim, Rachel Sison, Kevin Thurman, Patricia Valdepenas, and Tessa Waters, as well as their SPINOUT reading teacher, Ms. Yolanda Toni. These sixth grade students were inspired, after reading Greg Mortensen's book *Three Cups of Tea*, to collect pennies from their classmates at Fairview South School for the charity Pennies for Peace.

Ms. Toni's nine students worked with the school's Student Council and teacher sponsors Ms. Katherine MacLennan and Ms. Christina Sylvester. They made presentations to each grade level about the program and encouraged other students at the school to participate. Over two months, the students raised an impressive \$1,524.26 for Pennies for Peace. They wrote letters to me and other elected officials explaining their program and urging us to also work to promote education for all children throughout the world.

Pennies for Peace is a fantastic charity, founded by Mortensen, that encourages students to collect their pennies, and one cent at a time, to support education around the world. A penny might not seem like much money, but the students at Fairview South School demonstrated how quickly they can add up. This money will go to change the lives of students in Pakistan and Afghanistan and bring access to education and opportunity to girls and boys across the world.

The Fairview South students recognize that children in many places around the world do not have the same opportunities to attend school and gain an education as do kids in Skokie. Two students in the class wrote to me, and they eloquently argued that education is one of the most powerful tools we have to combat poverty, hopelessness, and violence.

One student wrote, "I know how it feels to want a good education that can get me further in life." Another said, "Can you imagine what it would be like if your children were unable to be educated? The luxury of elementary schools can indeed be taken for granted." These students know that helping girls and boys throughout the world, particularly in war-torn or impoverished countries, is one of the investments we can make.

Not only did the students at Fairview South raise an impressive number of pennies, but I hope that this program has also turned them into lifetime philanthropists. By participating in Pennies for Peace, students were able to help children in Pakistan and Afghanistan while also learning the invaluable lesson that even a small amount of money can make a big difference.

Again, I would like to thank the students and their teacher for their work with Pennies for Peace.

AMERICA COMPETES
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5116) to invest in innovation through research and development, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5116, the Reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act of 2010.

I commend Chairman GORDON for his leadership in developing this important legislation and bringing it to the floor.

In the three years since the America COMPETES Act was signed into law, we have made great strides in innovation, education, and technology. H.R. 5116 makes strong investments in science and education to strengthen U.S. competitiveness, support businesses, and create jobs.

H.R. 5116 builds upon the recommendations of the 2005 report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, and prioritizes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at all levels.

Since coming to Congress, I have been a strong supporter of STEM education at every age from pre-school through adult education. These investments ensure we prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers and maintain the most innovative, competitive workforce in the world.

Specifically, investment in STEM education is especially important at the K–12 level, when students are first exposed to STEM curricula. It is vitally important to engage the interest of K–12 students in STEM and to attract and retain highly skilled teachers in the STEM field.

It is my hope that teacher retraining and K–12 STEM education provisions included in the 2007 COMPETES bill will be reauthorized, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House Education and Labor Committee to achieve this goal.

In addition, I am pleased the bill supports STEM education programs at community colleges and 2-year institutions and links community colleges with Manufacturing Extension Partnerships, other institutions of higher education, research institutions, and regional innovation hubs. This connection ensures that students will have the job training necessary to secure good-paying jobs in their communities and manufacturers have a workforce with the right skill set to promote innovation.

I appreciate Chairman GORDON's willingness to work with me to include language in the bill

that ensures that DOE's STEM education programs mirror the important research being conducted by the agency on carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) science. CCS represents a major advancement in the use of coal, the nation's most abundant and affordable energy source.

The President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget invests over \$400 million in CCS research at DOE, and universities such as the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale engage in cutting-edge clean coal research. Including CCS in DOE's STEM education programming will ensure we continue to expand research, development, and deployment of this important technology and train a new generation of CCS scientists.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5116.

AMERICA COMPETES
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5116) to invest in innovation through research and development, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010. This multi-year reauthorization allows for urgently-needed investments to improve science, technology, engineering and math education, foster innovation and create jobs in the short, mid and long term. This bipartisan legislation will go a long way towards reversing the downward trend in domestic science and technological development, and will allow America to educate a new and highly skilled workforce, create new jobs in cutting-edge fields, and compete more aggressively in the global marketplace.

The COMPETES Act will strengthen STEM education programs—the building blocks of scientific and technological advances—through a number of important initiatives at all levels. The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program will provide funding to train highly competent secondary school teachers. And as our students progress, H.R. 5116 will afford them the opportunity to continue studying science and technology through grants designed to attract and retain undergraduate students in STEM fields.

The key to continued technological advances is innovative thinking. The COMPETES Act will create Regional Innovation Clusters, allowing businesses to collaborate and communicate more effectively on work and development in a number of fields. Additionally, through the reauthorization of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy, we will continue investing in potentially high-reward energy technology development. Along with the establishment of Energy Innovation Hubs, which support the advancement of energy technologies through research, development, and commercial application, we will be working towards achieving our nation's energy goals.

I am also very pleased that the COMPETES Act takes steps towards helping our domestic

small and medium-sized manufacturers through federal loan guarantees. This will allow them to access the capital they need to remain competitive in the global market. Additionally, through increased federal investment in the Manufacturing Extension Partnership at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, we will enable them to continue their important work during these difficult economic times.

This legislation will encourage and support the STEM students of today and tomorrow, reward innovative thinking, invest in promising technological advances, and aid struggling American manufacturers. Madam Speaker, this measure will have short and long-term benefits for our economy and allow the United States to remain competitive in an increasingly interconnected global economy. I am proud to support this bill today, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

AMERICA COMPETES
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5116) to invest in innovation through research and development, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes:

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Chair, today I rise in support of H.R. 5116, to reauthorize the America COMPETES Act. This bill continues the commitment we made to science and innovation from the first COMPETES Act, passed in 2007.

As a Member representing Silicon Valley, I have seen firsthand what innovation and research can do to keep us competitive and economically strong. H.R. 5116 will foster research by reauthorizing the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and keep them on a path that will double their authorized funding over 10 years, based on 2007 appropriated levels. This funding will support basic research in labs across the country. The Act also includes loan guarantee programs for small- and medium-sized manufacturers to bring their new and innovative products beyond the prototype stage and into production.

Madam Chair, the bill fosters STEM education and will help ensure that today's children are prepared to be tomorrow's competitive workforce. H.R. 5116 provides greater coordination of STEM education programs across federal agencies and aligns the programs at all levels of education—from K–12 through doctoral degrees. Once students are interested in STEM fields, we need to foster their growth and ensure that they have the right tools and support to stay within the STEM pipeline.

The COMPETES Reauthorization Act also encourages innovative thinking and solutions by reauthorizing the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E) to perform high-risk, high-reward energy research that could lead to the game-changing technology we need to wean ourselves off of polluting fossil fuels.