

at the Belmond-Klemme Community School District in Belmond, Iowa, for winning the national "Top Teacher Award" search. Mr. Dye was named the top teacher on the Live with Regis and Kelly television program.

Mr. Dye was recommended for the award by Jim and Dianna Suntken and Curt and Diane Stadlander, who wrote of Don in their nomination essay:

"Teaching is his passion! He believes in a good education for all and that school pride makes good citizens and a better world. Mr. Dye is affectionately known to his students and friends as "Mr. D". He is a compassionate, unselfish teacher who believes that all students, no matter their life styles or race, are all worthy and should always be taken seriously. All students are treated equal and special by him.

"Don Dye teaches English/literature and short stories at the Belmond/Klemme high school in our small community of Belmond, Iowa, where he has taught many different age levels for 37 years. He is respected and looked to for advice by fellow teachers not only for his teaching expertise, but for his warm and bubbly personality and incredible sense of humor. He has been on many committees and boards in the local school, area, and state.

"On the first day of school, Mr. D supplies the students with his home and cell phone number and strongly encourages them to call him night or day, no matter what the problem—whether if its to retrieve something from a locker, help writing a paper, and most importantly if they need a friend or someone to listen to them. He always says no problem is too big or small. He is always available 24-7 without fail. His family and friends tease him about not getting enough sleep, because his phone is always ringing. Just the other day a young boy needed someone to talk to about his sister lying in a hospital bed while taking chemotherapy and he knew that Mr. D always has time to listen. His closest friends know that he keeps his simple apartment, so he can have time to help people and families in need. Many years ago he lost the love of his life in a car accident; and since then he has devoted his life to helping others.

"Don Dye also takes great pride in our community. He has served on many boards, community events, and helped with many fundraisers for students or people in the community suffering from cancer, needing organ transplants, or other crises. He makes hospital visits, always surprising people with baked goods, and helping neighbors in need in some way—even if they don't think they are "in need". If someone is short on money, he will help them financially or lend a listening ear. He says he is just "doin' what his mamma and papa taught him", being raised a Pastor's kid and learning this as a child. Don is very active in church, including his second biggest passion of sharing his talent of music—playing the organ or singing in choirs. He is often found helping involve other people and youngsters to share their musical talents.

"But the "job" that Mr. Dye is the most passionate about is his teaching. You will often find him on the weekends at the school working on papers, thinking of great ways to involve the students and present his literature, helping students fill out scholarship papers, or helping former students with college work. And his cell phone still rings with college students

needing advice not only in academics, but often adapting to college life or dealing with life's struggles. You will find college students stopping by the school just to check in with Mr. D.

"All students' self worth and pride are very important to Mr. Dye. He wants them to feel good about themselves. He will often brighten their moods or spark up their energy levels with music and a "little dance" as they enter class. No student will ever go hungry around Mr. D, due to lack of time or money. There is always a tub of healthy food. He feels that if students are hungry, their minds are not as sharp. Students also know where to get a tie for speech day, socks or sweatshirts if they are cold, or many other necessities that can be found in his cupboards.

"We hope you will carefully consider Mr. Donald Dye as one of your top teachers, because he never expects any praise or to be in the spotlight. Belmond parents are very grateful to have him as a teacher for their children and role model for all. His favorite motto is "Celebrate the Day", so we want to celebrate a day for Mr. Dye!"

Madam Speaker, Mr. Dye's award also underscores the powerful sense of community in the Belmond-Klemme School District, which rallied around Mr. Dye when it was announced that he was a finalist for the award. Always a humble man, Mr. Dye is among the first to acknowledge that this award, which was determined by online voting and presented live on "Regis and Kelly," couldn't have happened without the community-wide effort and support.

The award underscores the value that Iowa has always placed on education. Every student who has gone to school in Iowa knows a great teacher like Mr. Dye, and every community in the state does everything it can to make sure students have the best possible chance to succeed in the classroom. Iowans know that the best way to invest in the future of our state is to invest in the education of our children. Mr. Dye's award is a testament to the commitment we place on education.

Mr. Dye is an incredible teacher, and his dedication to his profession and to his students should make every Iowan proud. It's an honor to represent him and the people of the Belmond-Klemme Community School District in the United States Congress, and I know that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating "Mr. D" on this well-deserved award and thanking him for his dedicated service to his community and America's youth.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of the amendment to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of our nation's

military, a discriminatory and self-defeating policy that I have opposed from its inception.

Our restrictive policy undermines our national security. It has resulted in the discharge of more than 13,000 trained and qualified men and women from our armed forces. It has caused thousands more not to re-enlist and countless others not to serve at all.

That these brave men and women are being denied the opportunity to serve their country is a grave injustice. And, we have been so misguided in our pursuit of this discriminatory policy that we have ignored the very real harm it causes our military personnel at a time when our nation is engaged in two wars and the need for talented and dedicated service members could not be greater.

Twenty-five advanced militaries throughout the world, including our closest allies such as Israel, Canada, and Britain, allow gays and lesbians to serve and none have seen any damage to their readiness. In stark contrast, the United States military, because of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," has undermined its readiness by discharging capable fighter pilots, infantry officers, translators, and other highly trained specialists who are in high demand.

Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said, "we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens." Today, many Americans defending our nation could be subject to a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" dismissal. They should be able to serve without fear that their nation will punish them for being open about who they are.

"Don't Ask Don't Tell" is contrary to the values this country stands for. America was founded on the principle of human dignity and on the belief that all men are created equal—and yet this policy perpetuates the absurd notion that some are more equal than others.

Those who oppose the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" are using the same language used by those who opposed the racial integration of our Armed Forces in 1948, fought the inclusion of women, and argued against the Civil Rights Act in 1965. The arguments are just as wrong today as they were then.

I want to commend Speaker PELOSI and President Obama for their leadership on this issue, and I ask all of my colleagues to support repeal. Passage of this amendment will bring an end to this shameful inequity.

IN SUPPORT OF "LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE MONTH"

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2010*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, June is "Leave No Child Inside Month," a time when parents and children are urged to explore, play and enjoy the outdoors in Illinois.

From Millennium Park to Lincoln Park Zoo, the Greenbelt Forest Preserve to McHenry Dam, families will be fishing, picnicking and learning beneath trees, beside beautiful lakes and amidst the natural treasures of Illinois.

This January, I passed a resolution honoring the Chicago Wilderness and the 250 organizations that make up this group of environmental enthusiasts.