

Stark; Cecil O. Swanson; Earl G. Thompson; Stanley A. Thompson, Jr.; Clyde A. Voigt; Bernard J. Warchol; William K. Watson; William J. Weldon; Fred Wolf; Myron Wolff; Donald R. Zirzow.

BOBBY ROBERTS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bobby Roberts for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Bobby Roberts is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Bobby Roberts for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

H.R. 4483, THE "BROADENING PARTICIPATION IN STEM EDUCATION ACT"

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 4483, the "Broadening Participation in STEM Education Act." This bill aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented minority groups who receive undergraduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, disciplines. It also seeks to increase the number of STEM faculty members from underrepresented minority groups at institutions of higher education.

The U.S. faces a severe shortfall in students graduating with degrees in STEM fields. With approximately 20 percent of our undergraduate degrees awarded in science and engineering disciplines, we rank 27th among developed nations in producing graduates qualified for 21st Century STEM careers. Statistics become even more alarming when you look at the number of students from underrepresented minority groups who receive degrees in STEM disciplines. As of 2011, only about 8 percent of 24 years-olds from these groups had obtained a bachelor's degree in a science or engineering discipline.

This is more than just a question of equity. We have a vast, untapped pool of talent in America, and this pool is continuing to grow. It is estimated that, by 2050, 52 percent of the U.S. population will be from underrepresented minority groups. We have to drastically increase the number of students from these

groups receiving degrees in STEM disciplines or we will undoubtedly relinquish our global leadership in innovation and job creation.

There are many reasons why the number of underrepresented minority students receiving degrees in STEM fields is so appallingly low. It starts at the K-12 level, where too many of our teachers are not well prepared to teach math and science and too many of our schools lack even basic science laboratory equipment. But even those minority students who enter college intending to major in a STEM discipline abandon science and engineering for other fields at a much higher rate than their peers. These young people are smart and motivated and small steps such as improved mentorship and increased access to research experiences have proven to keep students from all backgrounds on track to complete their STEM degrees.

Statistics are equally troubling when it comes to underrepresented minorities and their pursuit of academic careers in STEM disciplines. Underrepresented minorities currently make up about 29 percent of the U.S. population, but only about 8 percent of tenure-track science and engineering faculty members at universities and four-year colleges. Less than one percent of tenure-track science and engineering faculty members at the nation's top 100 research universities are from underrepresented groups. One consequence of having such a low number of minority faculty, among other things, is that they are called on much more frequently than their peers to serve on commissions, committees, and the like as a way of showing that a college or university is committed to diversity in their administrative procedures. As a result, minority faculty have less time to conduct research, publish papers, mentor students, and do other work that is required for them to achieve tenure status and otherwise thrive in their research careers. More fundamentally, the low number of minority faculty is another indicator of the untapped potential that we have in the STEM disciplines.

Passing the "Broadening Participation in STEM Education Act" will help address both of these issues. By authorizing the Director of NSF to award grants to colleges and universities that want to implement or expand innovative, research-based approaches to recruit and retain students from underrepresented minority groups, we will take a necessary step toward increasing the number of students from these groups who successfully complete undergraduate degrees in STEM fields. Similarly, by making grants available to colleges and universities to allow them to make an effort to increase the number of faculty members from underrepresented minority groups, we will take a necessary step toward achieving equality at our institutions of higher education. These are admittedly small steps toward maintaining American leadership in innovation, but they are necessary and achievable steps and we need to act now. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 4483.

A LIFE WELL LIVED

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chuck Colson who this past Satur-

day, "slipped the surly bonds of earth" to "touch the face of God." I also submit for the RECORD his official obituary.

Chuck's family has lost a husband, father and grandfather. Many of us have lost a dear friend and brother. And, the Nation has lost a compelling, often-times prophetic voice with a winsome ability to speak truth with grace about some of the most challenging issues of the day.

Chuck's political instincts gave him a keen ability to effectively communicate with policymakers and politicians alike about matters of utmost import that are rarely given their due in the halls of Congress or the White House.

Chuck's personal journey, marked by redemption and grace, gave him a heart beyond pale for the prisoner, the down-trodden, and the forgotten among us.

Chuck's faith defined him—and inspired countless others.

He possessed a passion for shaping the next generation of leaders, for equipping them with the tools to articulate and defend a Christian worldview in the public square. This is among his greatest legacies.

In short, we have lost a giant.

As we mourn his loss, we take comfort in knowing that the heavens rejoice and Chuck is most assuredly hearing the words, "well done, good and faithful servant."

CHUCK COLSON, FOUNDER OF PRISON FELLOWSHIP & COLSON CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW, DIES AT AGE 80

LANSLOWNE, VA., April 21, 2012.—Evangelical Christianity lost one of its most eloquent and influential voices today with the death of Charles W. "Chuck" Colson. The Prison Fellowship and Colson Center for Christian Worldview founder died at 3:12 p.m. ET today at the age of 80. After a brief illness, Colson passed away at a Northern Virginia hospital with his wife, Patty, and family at his bedside.

On March 30, Colson became ill while speaking at a Colson Center for Christian Worldview conference in Lansdowne. The following morning he had surgery to remove a pool of clotted blood on the surface of his brain, and doctors determined he had suffered an intracerebral hemorrhage. Though Colson remained in intensive care, doctors and family were optimistic for a recovery as he showed some signs of improvement. However, Tuesday (April 17) Colson became gravely ill when further complications developed.

A Watergate figure who emerged from the country's worst political scandal, a vocal Christian leader and a champion for prison ministry, Colson spent the last years of his life in the dual role of leading Prison Fellowship, the world's largest outreach to prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families, and the Colson Center, a research and training center focused on Christian worldview teaching.

Colson has been a central figure in the evangelical Christian community since he shocked the Washington establishment in 1973 by revealing his new Christian commitment in the midst of the Watergate inquiry. In later years Colson would say that because he was known primarily as Nixon's "Hatchet Man," the declaration that "I've been born again and given my life to Jesus Christ" kept the political cartoonists of America clothed and fed for a solid month." It also gave new visibility to the emerging movement of "born-again" Christians.