

that she knew she was supposed to try to live her life patterned by the way Jesus had lived his, but that she would feel satisfied if she could just live her life the way Alice Helton had lived hers. Another testimony of how much she was valued by the community was when one of the preachers at her funeral said that he felt as if he was officiating the funeral of "royalty."

Alice was a special lady to many people, and those who knew her, and loved her, and respected her, will miss her dearly. Her family said that they were so thankful that she was able to do her interview for the London Living Treasures project before she passed. And during her final hours on this earth, it was so clear to them how strong her faith in God was. They said she wasn't scared; she knew where she was going. They said that witnessing that kind of faith was one of the greatest gifts she could have ever given them.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, from June 25 to June 29, 2012, I was unable to vote on Senate rollcall votes due to personal family reasons, as well as the devastating wildfires that were burning in many parts of Colorado. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on vote Nos. 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, and 172.

LIFTING HOLD ON H.R. 3012

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I lift my hold on H.R. 3012, the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act. This bill would eliminate the per-country numerical limitations for employment based immigrants and change the per-country numerical limitations for family-based immigrants. When I placed a hold on the bill, I was concerned that the bill did nothing to better protect Americans at home who seek high-skilled jobs during this time of record unemployment. Today, I lift my hold because I have reached an agreement with the senior Senator from New York, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security.

I have spent a lot of time and effort into rooting out fraud and abuse in our visa programs, specifically the H-1B visa program. I have always said this program can and should serve as a benefit to our country, our economy and our U.S. employers. However, it is clear that it is not working as intended, and the program is having a detrimental effect on American workers.

For many years, Senator DURBIN and I have worked on legislation to close the loopholes in the H-1B visa program. Our legislation would ensure that American workers are afforded the first chance to obtain the available high paying and high skilled jobs in the United States. It would make sure visa holders know their rights. It would strengthen the wage requirements, ridding the incentives for companies to hire cheap, foreign labor.

While I could not get everything that was included in the Durbin-Grassley

visa reform bill, there is agreement to include in H.R. 3012 provisions that give greater authority to program overseers to investigate visa fraud and abuse. Specifically, there will be language authorizing the Department of Labor to better review labor condition applications and investigate fraud and misrepresentation by employers. There is also agreement to include a provision allowing the Federal Government to do annual compliance audits of employers who bring in foreign workers through the H-1B visa program.

I appreciate the willingness of other members to work with me to include measures that will help us combat visa fraud, and ultimately protect more American workers. I look forward to working with others as H.R. 3012 progresses in the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO WENDY NELSON-KAUFFMAN

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am delighted to honor one of our Nation's most dedicated, talented, and influential teachers. Wendy Nelson-Kauffman, a humanities teacher at the Metropolitan Learning Center in Bloomfield, CT, was recently named as the 2012 Magnet Schools of America's National Teacher of the Year.

The Metropolitan Learning Center is part of the Capitol Region Education Council, which recognizes annually a teacher who "exemplifies excellence in academic achievement through innovative programs that promote equity and diversity for students in Magnet Schools." This award spotlights the exceptional teachers and schools, especially our Nation's magnet schools, dedicated to equal opportunity. The Metropolitan Learning Center, open to students in 7th through 12th grades in the Greater Hartford Area, is one of Connecticut's finest centers for secondary education.

Since 1966, the Capitol Region Education Council has helped lead in reforming how we educate our Nation's children. Active in 36 areas of Connecticut, administering 120 programs in 20 facilities to more than 100,000 students annually, this network of dedicated administrators, educators, and education reformers has made tremendous impact, especially in underserved communities.

Ms. Nelson-Kauffman is renowned at the Metropolitan Learning Center. She has received many awards, including 2003 Connecticut Teacher of the Year, 2005 State History Teacher of the Year, and 2011 Capitol Region Education Council Teacher of the Year. But she is most respected for her generous energy and passion for changing the lives of our next generations. More telling than awards are the students who frequently share stories about the time Ms. Nelson-Kauffman dressed up as Rosie the Riveter or traveled with them to Africa and then formed the popular after-school group Student Abolitionists Stopping Slavery.

For almost 20 years as an educator at Hamden and Bloomfield High Schools and adult education centers, Ms. Nelson-Kauffman has used project-based learning with tremendous success. Her passion for journalism fosters an experiential, interactive teaching method. As Metropolitan Learning Center's social studies teacher and personal project coordinator for the prestigious International Baccalaureate Program, Ms. Nelson-Kauffman embraces a lifelong love of the past by placing it into the context of the present.

She shares her own genuine love of history with her classrooms. In 2003, invited to attend the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Teacher Institute, she studied primary resources that unearthed stories of 19th-century women reformers. With this new background as inspiration, she introduced sensitive topics like abolitionism and racism to her high school students with tact and grace.

As an ambassador to educators around Connecticut, Ms. Nelson-Kauffman has demonstrated the effectiveness of multicultural teaching methods, to include travel, activities, group interactions, concerts, and dance. Her authenticity is rare and a real treasure. She is a stellar role model for anyone who mentors or teaches our future leaders. I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating Ms. Nelson-Kauffman, who has helped mitigate apathy and promote enthusiasm for the study of humanities.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. BECKY PANEITZ

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Dr. Becky Paneitz for her dedication, leadership and vision for providing a quality, affordable secondary education at NorthWest Arkansas Community College.

Having earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello and her master's from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Dr. Paneitz understands the unique education challenges in Arkansas and faced that task head-on. As the President of NWACC for nearly a decade, she developed additional opportunities to reach students by establishing learning centers in the region. These efforts increased student enrollment exponentially. In less than 10 years the student population nearly doubled, making NWACC one of the largest and fastest growing community colleges in the country.

To accommodate this record growth, Dr. Paneitz launched an aggressive building expansion project on the NWACC campus including the Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development, the Center for Health Professions and the new Student Center.

Dr. Paneitz devoted her life to education and that took her across the