

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LETTER OF RECOGNITION FOR 2013 CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Grace Meng, a resident of Vienna, Virginia, who is a recipient of the 2013 Critical Language Scholarship.

The Critical Language Scholarship Program was established in 2006 by the Department of State as part of an effort to train American young people in languages that are critical to our nation's global interests. For three months, attendees are immersed in an intensive cultural environment that teaches a new language, new culture, and new sense of self. The CLS program is remarkably competitive; in 2013 nearly 4,000 students from around the country applied, but only 597 were accepted. Due to her impressive academic success, I am proud to say that Grace Meng was one of those chosen.

Participants in the Critical Language Scholarship Program do more than simply enrich their own appreciation of a foreign culture. Their deep understanding of these critical regions ensures that our nation has capable individuals that can work on issues vital to the interests of the United States. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of Grace Meng, and in wishing her heartfelt congratulations on her achievements.

EXCHANGE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3362. It's very important for the administration to disclose data on enrollments in coverage through the health care Marketplaces, at the same frequency as it does for Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and other federal programs. In fact, Monday's monthly report provided extensive national and State-by-State data for December, breaking it down by gender, age, and financial assistance status of new enrollees, as well as the levels of coverage selected. Today's bill is not about enhancing data disclosure in the Marketplaces. Rather, its goal appears to be to tie the hands of State and federal agencies with unnecessary, unrealistic requirements, and delay their efforts to enroll people in quality, affordable coverage. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

HONORING THE NON-DENOMINATION HOUSE OF PRAYER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Christian organization, The Non-Denomination House of Prayer.

The Non-Denomination House of Prayer was founded in 1948 by Pastor Charity Waffer in the historical city of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Pastor Waffer was the first female pastor in the Mississippi Delta. As a pastoral pioneer she was instrumental in opening doors for women and youths through various church auxiliaries and functions. Her leadership guided many to various freedoms and liberties.

The current overseer is Dr. Earnestine Flowers which over sees other churches in Mississippi with the communities of Duncan, Batesville, Sardis, Oxford and in Chicago, Illinois. The Non-Denomination House of Prayer in the City of Mound Bayou current ministerial leaders are Pastor Willie Joe Flowers, Assistant Pastor Carl Henry, and Minister Martha Sanders.

They have increased the church membership and have embarked on renovating and expanding their facilities in order to continue to be a blessing to its members, community, and surrounding communities by being able to be a place of refuge to those who are hungry physically and spiritually and by offering comprehensive programs to meet the needs of others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Non-Denomination House of Prayer for their dedication in being a corner stone in the Mound Bayou Community.

LETTER OF RECOGNITION FOR 2013 CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Christopher Haberland, a resident of Herndon, Virginia, who is a recipient of the 2013 Critical Language Scholarship.

The Critical Language Scholarship Program was established in 2006 by the Department of State as part of an effort to train American young people in languages that are critical to our nation's global interests. For three months, attendees are immersed in an intensive cultural environment that teaches a new language, new culture, and new sense of self. The CLS program is remarkably competitive; in 2013 nearly 4,000 students from around the country applied, but only 597 were accepted. Due to his impressive academic success, I am

proud to say that Christopher Haberland was one of those chosen.

Participants in the Critical Language Scholarship Program do more than simply enrich their own understanding and appreciation of a foreign culture. Their deep understanding of these critical regions ensures that our nation has capable individuals that can work on issues vital to the interests of the United States. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of Christopher Haberland, and in wishing him heartfelt congratulations on his achievements.

HONORING MS. JOAN WILLIAMS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Joan Williams. A lifelong community leader, Ms. Williams is being honored with the Martin Luther King Community Service Award on January 23rd for her unending service to our city and its people.

Since her graduation from Lincoln University in 1971, Ms. Williams has been a force for change. Professionally, Ms. Williams worked in the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights from 1972 to 2006, eventually becoming a Senior Equal Opportunity Specialist, investigating discrimination complaints regarding elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education programs. She now serves as the First Vice President & Director of Programs & Projects for the West Philadelphia Coalition of Neighborhoods and Businesses. In this role, Ms. Williams acts as a liaison between businesses and corporations and community members seeking employment, working to help all of her neighbors achieve better circumstances.

Ms. Williams was also instrumental in establishing the Community Advisory Committee, which serves as an oversight committee for the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Service Center, making the Center safe and of assistance to the community. For her personal and professional work, Ms. Williams has received many awards, including, but not limited to, the 190th Legislative District Image Award from State Representative Vanessa Lowery Brown and the Community Service Award from the Henry Hill Post 385 American Legion. On reflecting on Ms. Williams's long history of working for social justice, I cannot think of someone more deserving of this year's Martin Luther King Community Service Award.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment to our city has enriched the lives of countless individuals. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Williams for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING WILL T. TURNER, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Will T. Turner, Sr., who is a remarkable Civil Rights Worker, Extraordinary and public servant.

Mr. Will T. Turner, Sr. was born in Jefferson County, Mississippi on February 23, 1930 to Rena and Warren Turner, Sr. At the age of 7, his mother died shortly after childbirth and his Uncle and Aunt, Howard and Mary Lou Nichols, reared him along with his siblings.

Mr. Turner, Sr. attended Jefferson County Training School. Being independent and desiring a better life, at the age of 16 he began working with Sidney Brown, a white contractor. He remained in his employment for 20 years. During this period he became adept in the construction field and well known in this arena. He was approached to do private jobs, independent of Sidney Brown, which led to the beginning of Turner Construction.

Well known throughout the community for his generosity and kindness, Mr. Turner, Sr. became instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement in Fayette, Mississippi. In 1963, he moved Charles Evers, brother of slain civil rights advocate Medgar Evers, to Fayette. He became instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement of Fayette, Mississippi as well as the surrounding communities. He attended weekly NAACP Mass Meetings, participated in numerous civil rights marches and was often jailed for equality and justice for all.

In 1964, Mr. Turner, Sr. was elected as one of the first Black Aldermen to serve in a bi-racial town in the State of Mississippi along with four other blacks and Charles Evers as Mayor. He served three terms as an Alderman of the City of Fayette. He also served as Coroner of Jefferson County for 24 years.

Mr. Turner, Sr. is married to the former Florence Clark and they are the proud parents of two sons—Will T., Jr. and Perry (deceased) and five daughters—Delories, Mary, Patricia, Tina and Janice.

After working to register people to vote, after encouraging others to participate in the work of the movement in several different places, Mr. Turner participated in the slate of blacks seeking to make changes with the elected officials in the town of Fayette and they were all elected.

When elected to the Board of Alderman of Fayette, he was interviewed by JET magazine and they were all published in that month's issue of Jet.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a Civil Rights Worker Extraordinaire, Mr. Will T. Turner, Sr., for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS THE FAIRFAX COUNTY 2013 LAND CONSERVATION AND TREE PRESERVATION AND PLANTING AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the Fairfax County 2013 Land Conservation and Tree Preservation and Planting Awards.

Fairfax County is considered one of the best counties in the nation in which to live, work and raise a family. One reason for this designation is the innovative environmental protection policies that have been implemented by the County and embraced by its business partners. I was pleased to have led that effort during my tenure as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. These awards recognize the following developers, designers and site superintendents who have excelled in their stewardship of the environment:

Land Preservation Awards:
Large Commercial: Jennings Toyota
Owner: Jennings Business Park, LLC
Small Commercial: MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility
Owner: Washington Metro Area Transit Authority

Large Single Family Residential: The Reserve at Timber Lake

Owner: Winchester Homes, Inc.
Small Single Family Residential: Leatherland Property

Owner: Palisades Development at Telegraph Road, LLC

Special Project: Timber Ridge at EDS Park Facility

Owner: Timber Ridge at Discovery Square, Inc.

Linear Project: Timber Ridge at EDS North—South Collector

Owner: Timber Ridge at Discovery Square, Inc.

Best Protected Environmentally Sensitive Site: Jennings Toyota

Owner: Jennings Business Park, LLC

Best Protected Environmentally Sensitive Site: Huntley Meadows Park Wetland Restoration Project

Owner: Fairfax County Park Authority

Outstanding Engineering Firms: Walter L. Phillip, INC for Jennings Toyota

Outstanding Superintendent: Gareen Khoranian for Huntley Meadow Park Wetland Restoration Project

Outstanding Contractor: S.W. Rodgers for Jennings Toyota

Outstanding Developer/Owner: Jennings Business Park, LLC/Jennings Toyota

Outstanding E/S Inspectors of the Year: Mike Ernst, Gary Cook, and Mark Evans

Outstanding E/S Plan Reviewers of the Year: Walt Hamilton, Laura O'Leary, and Greg Rodgers

Tree Planting Awards:
Project: Clemyjontri Park

Developer: Fairfax County Park Authority

Project: Lee Highway and Nutley Street

Developer: Washington Property Company, LLC

Project: Oakton Library

Developer: Fairfax County, DPWES, Capital Facilities

Tree Preservation Awards:

Project: Huntley Meadows

Developer: Fairfax County Park Authority

Project: Roseglen

Builder: Stanley Martin Homes

Project: The Reserve at Stone Hill

Builder: Winchester Homes, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these honorees. Fairfax County and its residents have benefitted greatly from the collaborative spirit that is represented by these awards today, and I thank each of the awardees for their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN YOUNG, A SENIOR AT FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL, IN KNOX COUNTY TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor an exceptional high school student from my District whose common-sense and eloquent words brought national attention to education policy.

Kevin Young, a senior at Farragut High School in Knox County, Tennessee, recently testified in front of the Knox County School Board against Common Core, the one-size-fits-all educational scheme being implemented across the Nation.

Kevin's speech was noticed by outlets such as FOX News and Glenn Beck, who called the remarks possibly the best case against Common Core ever made.

I have been friends with Kevin's grandmother for many years and know him to be a very passionate and intelligent young man.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin has learned through his own experience that, in his words, "creativity, appreciation, and inquisitiveness are impossible to scale." I bring his powerful speech, which is reprinted below in its entirety, to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD. All education policy-makers should listen closely to his wisdom.

SPEECH TO KNOX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

(By Ethan Young)

In a mere five minutes, I hope to provide insightful comments about a variety of educational topics. I sincerely hope you disprove the research I've compiled.

Here's the history of the Common Core. In 2009, the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers partnered with Achieve Inc., a nonprofit that received millions in funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Thus the initiative seemed to spring from states, when in reality it was contrived by an insular group of educational testing executives with only two academic content specialists. Neither specialist approved the final standards, and the English consultant, Dr. Sandra Stotsky, publicly stated she felt the standards left students with an empty skill set, lacking literary knowledge.

While educators and administrators were later included in the validation committee and feedback groups, they did not play a role in the actual drafting of the standards. The product is a, quote, "rigorous preparation for career and college," yet many educators agree that "rigorous" is a buzzword. These standards aren't rigorous, just different, designed for industrial model of school.