

ANNOUNCING THE INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER AS "NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK"

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, today I will introduce legislation to designate the third week of October as "National Teen Driver Safety Week."

Unfortunately, roughly 7,500 teenage drivers were involved in fatal car crashes in 2005. The time has come for us to recognize this terrible problem and consider effective interventions that will help reduce the number of accidents involving teens.

On Monday, January 22, 2007, following a tragic accident that claimed the lives of two Pennsylvania high school students, the Morning Call compiled a report of fatal crashes involving teens that had occurred in the Lehigh Valley region since 2001. This report indicated that there were a total of 13 fatalities between 2001 and 2006, with alcohol involved in two of the seven accidents reported. Other contributing factors included racing and reckless behavior. Sadly, it appears these events could have been prevented, enabling these children to reach their destinations safely.

To address this troubling issue, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is currently conducting research that will help develop the best interventions to reduce the risk of crash injury for teen drivers and travelers sharing the road with them. The alliance of CHOP and State Farm Insurance Company, its partner in this initiative, is nationally recognized for its research and outreach involving child passenger safety. However, this year they have expanded their agenda from the car seat to the driver's seat in an effort to address the cause of motor vehicle crashes, the leading cause of death among American teenagers. Together, CHOP and State Farm have conducted research indicating that teens often drive while distracted and fatigued. I believe this alliance between CHOP and State Farm brings together a wide range of expertise in research and outreach—translating scientific evidence into actions that will help save lives.

It is important that Congress supports efforts to effectively educate teens and families about ways to address these problems. This resolution will support the goals and ideals of a week in which intensive programming will be used to encourage teens to drive more safely. By perhaps delaying exposure to risky driving conditions until they have enough supervised driving experience, managing peer-to-peer interactions around driving, and reinforcing the need to detect and react to hazards more appropriately, teens will be better prepared to drive responsibly.

Madam Speaker, teens are dying in crashes at a rate of four times that of adult drivers and we must act now to prevent future tragedies.

HONORING CAPTAIN MARK SPONENBURGH

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise honor Captain Mark Sponenburgh, a remarkable and distinguished constituent of mine from Seal Rock, OR. On this 63rd anniversary of the "D-Day" landings in Normandy, a ceremony is being held in Washington, DC to celebrate the dozen remaining "Monuments Men" who served our country with honor and valor during World War II. While Captain Sponenburgh was unable to attend today's ceremony, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the countless contributions he has made to our country and community.

Over the years, Captain Sponenburgh has served others in a variety of capacities. He volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1942 where he was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers. Stationed in Britain, he served campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, and Luxembourg before requesting to be transferred to the Monuments, Fine Arts & Archives section program under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the United States Armed Forces.

During World War II, Nazi dictator Adolph Hitler ordered covert missions to locate and secure art from every region his regime conquered in Europe. As a member of the "Monuments Men," Captain Sponenburgh joined an elite multinational force of more than 350 men and women serving on frontline military units during and after WWII to preserve, protect and liberate artistic and cultural treasures in countries occupied by the Allied armies.

Responsible for having tracked, identified and catalogued millions of priceless works of art and irreplaceable cultural artifacts stolen by Hitler and the Nazis, the heroic deeds of these unsung heroes continue to benefit us all today.

In addition to having studied and taught in Britain, France, Egypt, and Pakistan, Captain Sponenburgh brought his many years of experience and skills to the University of Oregon as well as Oregon State University. Admired by his students for his passion and intellect, he was sorely missed when he entered retirement.

I joined my colleagues in this chamber last month in passing a resolution honoring the great contributions made by all members of the "Monuments Men," but today I rise, Madam Speaker, to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Oregon's last living member, Captain Mark Sponenburgh.

IN RECOGNITION OF D-DAY

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor our brave military forces who on this day in 1944—63 years ago—landed on Utah and Omaha beaches, two of the five beaches at Normandy on a mission known as Operation Overlord, the D-Day invasion.

Today we honor those who never made it ashore, drowning from the weight of their gear or killed by the enemy as they struggled out of the water. The ones who did make it fought valiantly on those beachheads and further on through many campaigns in Europe during World War II.

There are fewer and fewer of the Great Generation left with us today, but their sacrifice for our country and their dedication to protecting freedom and democracy lives on.

On this day, which commemorates the beginning of the Allied forces effort to liberate mainland Europe from Nazi occupation during World War II, I ask that everyone take a moment to remember all of these brave souls and salute them. We are forever grateful for their service and their sacrifice to protect freedom for future generations.

INTRODUCING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sanctity of Life Act. The Sanctity of Life Act provides that the Federal courts of the United States, up to and including the Supreme Court, do not have jurisdiction to hear abortion-related cases. The legislation also clarifies that State and local courts do not have to treat Federal cases overturning State abortion laws as binding precedent.

Abortion on demand is no doubt the most serious sociopolitical problem of our age. The lack of respect for life that permits abortion significantly contributes to our violent culture and our careless attitude toward liberty. Whether a civilized society treats human life with dignity or contempt determines the outcome of that civilization. Reaffirming the importance of the sanctity of life is crucial for the continuation of a civilized society. There is already strong evidence that we are on the slippery slope toward euthanasia and non-consensual human experimentation. Although the real problem lies within people's hearts and minds, the legal problems of protecting life stem from the ill-advised Roe v. Wade ruling, where the court usurped the State's authority over abortion. Congress can, and should, take a major step toward restoring respect for all life by using the authority granted to it in Article 3, Section 1 of the Constitution to rein in rogue Federal judges from interfering with a State's ability to protect unborn life.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in support of this bill. By following the Constitution and using the power granted to the Congress by the Constitution, we can restore respect for the sanctity of human life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, June 5th, 2007. Had I been

present for votes, I would have voted "yes" on each of the five votes taken: H. Res. 397, H. Res. 422, H. Res. 430, H. Res. 451, and H. Res. 452.

**CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT
OF CHINA TO STOP GENOCIDE
AND VIOLENCE IN DARFUR,
SUDAN**

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 422, a resolution calling on China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur.

I would like to thank the Congresswoman from California for her dedication to human rights throughout the world and especially in Darfur.

I was pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill and pleased that this Congress will not let the ongoing genocide go unnoticed or ignored.

What's taking place in Darfur today is truly a crime against humanity. Every day women are raped, men are killed, and children face violence, hunger, and desperation.

China has chosen to continue to invest in Sudan and to prop up a government bent on murder and bloodshed. Let us be clear: any country that supports the Khartoum government's brutality—either through monetary or military support—is complicit.

I urge the support of this resolution and call on our own administration to take immediate actions to bring an end to the genocide in Sudan.

**A TRIBUTE TO OSWALD "OZZIE"
TORRES**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Oswald "Ozzie" Torres who is being honored at the International Association of Lions Club District 20-K1 Governor's Testimonial Dinner. Mr. Torres, a native of Brooklyn, NY, is a successful Certified Public Accountant who credits his achievements to his caring parents Osvaldo and Lydia Torres.

Mr. Torres decided to follow in his father's footsteps and establish a career in accounting. Together they are the driving force of the firm Torres and Associates.

Mr. Torres has been a member in good standing of the Brooklyn Caribe Lions' Club since 1995 and has received numerous recognition awards from Lions Club International. Among those honors include; the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship and the Robert J. Uplinger award from District 20-K1.

Mr. Torres has been a presenter at many orientation sessions and workshops speaking in both English and Spanish. He has served District 20-K1 as Chairman of International Understanding and Cooperation, Leadership,

Membership; Business Manager of the Kings and Queens Publication; Zone and Region Chairman; Cabinet Secretary and Treasurer; Vice-District Governor; and currently District Governor.

Mr. Torres has served the communities of both Brooklyn and Queens and has previously been named "Business Person of the Year." He is a member and Executive Board Officer of the Boricua Festival of New York and is an Executive Member of the Woodhull Hospital Auxiliary Board.

Mr. Torres is married to Melissa Torres and has two sons Michael and Brandon.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this pillar of our community for all of his contributions.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Oswald "Ozzie" Torres.

**SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY
ABROAD FOUNDATION ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1469, the Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act, which will significantly enhance opportunities for Americans to gain international education, build understanding and respect among different cultures, and enhance leadership in the global community.

Senator Paul Simon embodied the role of concerned citizen, which is the essence of this program. Starting his career in the newspaper business, he served in the Illinois General Assembly and as Lt. Governor of Illinois, and later was our colleague in the U.S. Congress, where he served in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Senator Simon was a great believer in the hope that good government can instill in people, and was widely regarded for his common-sense, hard work and integrity. In addition, Senator Simon was proud of Southwestern and Southern Illinois, where he got his professional start, entered politics and lived much of his life. It was a pleasure to serve with him and it is important for young Americans to know about his career and ideals.

As a professor and author of numerous books, Senator Simon was passionate about education. He was particularly interested in the need for American students to travel abroad to learn about different peoples, their languages and their cultures. In this way, the United States would be better able to understand and work with other nations.

Today, only one percent of U.S. undergraduate students participate in a study abroad program during their degree program. This statistic shows the United States is failing to take advantage of a valuable tool that should be used to enhance our standing in the world and to improve our Nation's security.

Mr. Speaker, as economic competition and national security continue to defy geographical boundaries, the need for our students to gain international knowledge greatly increases. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LATE
PARREN JAMES MITCHELL**

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and achievements of Parren James Mitchell, the first black Congressman to represent the State of Maryland, 1 of the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, CBC, and a champion of civil rights. Mr. Mitchell was a powerful force in the 20th century resurgence of Black political strength in the United States and I was proud to serve with him in the Congress.

Born in Baltimore, MD, on April 29, 1922, Parren Mitchell was the ninth of 10 children in his family. He earned a bachelor's degree from Morgan State College in 1950 and was the first Black to earn a master's degree from the University of Maryland—College Park in 1952, after a successful suit that granted him fair admission. Mitchell returned to his undergraduate institution to teach sociology and serve as the assistant director of the Urban Studies Institute. He was also a commissioned officer of the 92nd Infantry Division during World War II, receiving the Purple Heart.

Having amassed more than 3,000 awards and 14 honorary degrees, Mitchell was a leader in politics and business. He served on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City from 1954 to 1957 and as executive director to both the Maryland Human Relations Commission and Baltimore Community Action Agency.

Mr. Mitchell was elected to the 92nd United States Congress in 1971 and reelected for seven successive terms. As the first Black to head the House Committee on Small Business, his greatest triumph was in leading a fight to ratify bills providing special aid to Black business owners on the grounds that Blacks had been subjected to discrimination for generations. In addition to heading the Small Business Committee, he was also Democratic whip at large, the senior member of the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, and chairman of its Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy.

In 1980, Mitchell founded the Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., MBELDEF, whose accomplishments include a successful lawsuit against Burger King in 1988 for discriminatory practices in awarding franchises.

As a mentor to African Americans committed to improving American civil rights, such as former president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, Kweisi Mfume, Mitchell was selflessly committed to uplifting his people and was even referred to during his chairmanship of the CBC as "the Little General."

Parren is remembered in Congress as a soft-spoken yet eloquent speaker with a large presence. Former Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Richard Lugar asserted it was Mitchell's impassioned plea for sanctions against South Africa that persuaded him to accept a tougher measure than the Senate originally backed in 1985.

Parren, along with other family members have dedicated their careers to public service and specifically to representing the people of