TRIBUTE TO THE PIKEVILLE KENTUCKY SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the staff of the Pikeville Kentucky Social Security Office for their strong, effective, and compassionate service to the people of Kentucky. Their dedication and service has earned them the prestigious Social Security's Administration's Best Level Two Office in the Atlanta Region Award.

Social Security plays an important role in the lives of more Americans than any other federal program. Whether providing a Social Security number for a newborn baby, mailing a check to a retired worker, or helping a disabled individual receive benefits, the Social Security Administration touches the lives of everyone.

The field office in Pikeville, Kentucky, is a shining example for this extensive federal agency. The Pikeville staff consistently goes beyond the call of duty to provide valuable benefits to the people of Kentucky. Because of this unwavering commitment to helping others, the Social Security Administration recognized the Pikeville Office as the Best Level Two Office in the Atlanta Region. This is the highest honor a social security office can receive.

This award would not be possible if it weren't for the committed individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service. The Pikeville office is professional, courteous, and goes above and beyond in order to ensure the highest quality of service to all those who are in need of their assistance. This award is a reflection of each and every employee's exceptional performance in delivering quality public-centered service in a timely and efficient manner.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank the staff at the Pikeville Social Security Office for their hard work and dedication to serving the people of Kentucky. These fine Americans are an inspiration to us all, and I salute them for their commitment to helping others.

PRIMARY CARE DENTAL ACADEMIC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Primary Care Dental Academic Workforce Development Act of 2009.

Dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in the U.S. and also one of the most preventable. More than one quarter of American children between the ages of 2 and 4, half of children between ages 6 and 8, and nearly 60 percent of 15 year-old children suffer from dental decay. Despite this, schools of dentistry in the United States are experiencing difficulty in recruiting and retaining the expert faculty needed to train our nation's future dentists.

A strong dental faculty is needed to recruit and train the dental students needed to provide exceptional dental care to our nation's children. Yet, the nation is currently experiencing a shortage of pediatric dental faculty. While pediatric dentists treat only about 30 percent of children, they are responsible for training all of the dentists who treat children. A critical factor in this shortage is the staggering student loan debt and income disparity compared to private practice. The average graduating dental student loan debt was $158,104 in 2006, yet faculty positions generally only provide a third of the income as a private practice which many would-be faculty simply cannot afford.

Addressing the pediatric faculty shortage is especially critical for ensuring that children receive appropriate dental care from an early age and is absolutely essential in determining the quality of their oral health throughout their life. Further, the tragic death of Deamonte Driver in 2007 highlights that poor oral health can have tragic health outcomes, including death. Such tragedies should he avoided at all costs in the future.

For these reasons, my colleague Representative MIKE SIMPSON and I are introducing the Primary Care Dental Academic Workforce Development Act of 2009. This legislation would expand authority under the current Title VII pediatric and general dentistry program to allow these training programs to utilize these grants funds to support loan repayment for up to $250,000 over five years in order to recruit and retain faculty. This authority would significantly' assist in recruitment and retention of pediatric dentistry faculty. Currently, pediatric dentistry programs may apply for Title VII funding to expand or enhance training programs, but not for faculty loan repayment.

Our nation's children deserve the best medical care that our nation has to offer. In order to provide this, we need to ensure we have the resources to train our health professionals. I am proud to introduce the Primary Care Dental Academic Workforce Development Act of 2009, and I urge your full consideration of this important legislation.

INTRODUCING THE TEACHER TAX CUT ACT AND THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation that raise the pay of teachers and other educators by cutting their taxes. I am sure that all my colleagues agree that it is long past time to begin treating those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's children with the respect they deserve. Compared to other professionals, educators are under-appreciated and under-paid. This must change if America is to have the finest education system in the world!

Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. If we continue to undervalue educators, it will become harder to attract, and keep, good people in the education profession. While educators' pay is primarily a local issue, Congress can, and should, help raise educators' take home pay by reducing educators' taxes.

This is why I am introducing the Teachers Tax Cut Act. This legislation provides every teacher in America with a $3,000 tax credit. I am also introducing the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act, which extends the $3,000 tax credit to counselors, librarians, and all school personnel involved in any aspect of the K–12 academic program.

The Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act increase the salaries of teachers and other education professionals without raising federal expenditures. By raising the take-home pay of professional educators, these bills encourage highly qualified people to enter, and remain in, education. These bills also let America's professional educators know that the American people and the Congress respect their work.

I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting our nation's teachers and other professional educators by cosponsoring the Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF EZRA ''BUD'' AND MARY CAROTHERS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the town of Winfield, Alabama recently lost two dear friends, and I rise today to honor Ezra Bonner "Bud" Carothers and Mary Lee Hill Carothers and pay tribute to their memory.

A native of Marion County, Bud was a resident of the Winfield area most of his life. He graduated from Sidney Lanier High School in Montgomery and attended the University of Alabama. He was in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Philippines, Peluloe and Saipan.

Mary was also a native of Marion County. She graduated from Winfield High School and went on to attend Fairfax Hall College in Waynesboro, Virginia, as well as the University of Alabama.

Loved by their family, respected by the entire community, Bud and Mary are perhaps best known for the Winfield Quick Freeze, a meat processing facility in Winfield that the couple owned and operated for almost four decades. They were also both active members of Winfield First United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering two dedicated community leaders known to many throughout northwest Alabama.

Ezra Bonner ''Bud'' Carothers and Mary Lee Hill Carothers will be dearly missed by their family—their sons, William Russell Carothers II and his wife Becky, and Robert Leroy ''Bubba'' Carothers and his wife Rebecca; their eight grandchildren, Melissa Carothers Beard, William Russell Carothers III, Christian Hill Carothers, Robert Leroy Carothers Jr., Brooks Reed Carothers, Ryan Lee Carothers, Julia Gardner, and Amanda Gardner; their eight great-grandchildren, Mary Kate Beard, Spencer Beard, Will Carothers, John Carothers, Nicholus Carothers, Elizabeth Carothers, Allie Carothers, and Caroline Carothers; and nieces and nephews—as well as the countless friends they have left behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING DOCTOR RICHARD STRANGE AND HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MUSICAL COMMUNITY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard E. Strange, who is completing his 34th year with the Tempe Symphony Orchestra.

Before beginning his professional career, he earned his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Performance from Boston University, and also holds degrees from Wichita University, and the University of Colorado. He then went on to teach music classes to elementary and high school students before being drafted to serve in the Korean War. As a former teacher myself, I commend Dr. Strange's commitment to emphasizing music education as an essential component of the learning process. And as a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I honor Dr. Strange's service to our country and his continued commitment to our nation's service members both past and present.

Richard is also well known in the band and orchestra community. For many years, he served as the guest conductor for multiple popular symphonies, such as the Texas Wind Symphony and the Carnegie Civic Symphony. Dr. Strange also devoted much time to directing prominent bands for the U.S. Marine Corps., U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, and U.S. Coast Guard.

In addition to holding music clinics all over the world, Dr. Strange has received a myriad of awards honoring his significant contributions to the musical community. His efforts have certainly had a profound impact on me as well as musicians and audiences around the world.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dr. Richard Strange for not only his 34 years with the Tempe Symphony Orchestra, but also for his commitment to our veterans and for the tremendous success of his entire musical career.

HONORING MR. ELMER DUCKINFIELD

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Exton resident Elmer Duckinfield, whose tremendous volunteer spirit and constant compassion have earned him the 2009 Safe Harbor Andrew Dinniman Humanitarian Award.

Elmer first served his country in the Army and Navy and has not stopped looking out for others since that time. He is a founding volunteer and a former Board Member at Safe Harbor, which is a nonprofit shelter serving single homeless men and women in the West Chester area.

Safe Harbor is not the only nonprofit agency benefitting from Elmer's genuine charity, humility and drive to make the world a kinder place for everyone. He has eagerly helped more than 70 nonprofit agencies in southeastern Pennsylvania during the last year, logging more than 15,000 miles in his car and contributing countless hours.

Whether it is collecting bread and pastries for St. Agnes Parish, safely driving pregnant homeless women to emergency shelters or tracking down donations to replace an industrial dishwasher at Safe Harbor, Elmer always stands ready to help anyone in need.

Elmer will receive his much-deserved humanitarian award during the Safe Harbor Gala on Saturday, April 18 in the Atrium of QVC.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Elmer Duckinfield for his exemplary service and never-ending desire to improve the lives of others and the quality of life in his community through outstanding acts of kindness.

HONORING TENNESSEE'S NURSES DURING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK, MAY 6–12, 2009

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor all nurses nationwide and to celebrate National Nurses Week, which begins on May 6, 2009. The week long commemoration honors all nurses, and ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday.

This year's theme, ''Nurses: Building a Healthy America,'' addresses the important role nurses have in our society. Research has shown that when there are more registered nurses working in health care facilities, there are lower mortality rates, shorter lengths of stay, fewer complications, and lower costs.

As a member of the Congressional Nursing Caucus, I have consistently supported legislation protecting nurses' rights and funding increases for nursing education. There is much work, however, that still needs to be done.

Currently, there is a national nurse shortage. By the year 2020, it is predicted Tennessee alone will have a shortage of 9,495 registered nurses. I hope that National Nurses Week will mark the beginning of a trend in the recruitment and retention of nurses throughout our country.

Undoubtedly, we have all been positively affected by nurses at some point in our lives. Whether they have cared for a family member, a friend, or a loved one, we can all be grateful for their hard work and service to our communities.

I want to use this opportunity to thank nurses in Tennessee and across the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, during the consideration of H.R. 1664, Pay for Performance Act, I inadvertently voted ''aye'' on the Bean Amendment (rollcall vote 180). I had intended to vote ''nay,'' and want the record to reflect that I share Chairman FRANK's concerns that this amendment, which would exempt recipients of TARP capital investments from the bill's requirements while taxpayer funds were still outstanding, is contrary to the intent of the bill.

IN HONOR OF DALE SKILLICORN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dale Skillicorn of Watsonville, California. Dale passed away on March 14, 2009 at the age of seventy-one, leaving behind a city better for his efforts. He was an extraordinary community leader who served as the city of Watsonville's Mayor Pro Tempore and had served as a city councilmember, representing the city's 7th District, since 2002.

Dale was born on April 4, 1937 in Watsonville, California. He graduated from Watsonville High School then attended Monterey Peninsula College and San Francisco State University. Dale spent more than twenty years in public service positions. He served on the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission for fourteen years, and then spent five years as Santa Cruz County Parks Commissioner. In 2002, Dale was elected to represent Watsonville's District 7 on the city council. He was reelected in 2006 and in 2008 was selected as the Mayor Pro Tempore by his peers on the city council. Dale brought a wealth of knowledge and a unique perspective to the city council.

Dale Skillicorn's public service career will be remembered for his dedication to green job creation and advocacy for the Pajaro Valley's agriculture industry. He played a key role in bringing the Alternative Construction and Energy Expo to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. In addition, many residents in Watsonville will remember Dale through his work as a volunteer in many organizations located in the Pajaro Valley.

Madam Speaker, Dale Skillicorn touched the hearts of everyone he came into contact with, was a pillar to the city of Watsonville. He lived his life as an active member of the community, who was driven by compassion to help others. I am certain I speak for the entire House in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Dale's wife of 29 years, Jan Skillicorn; his son, Mark Skillicorn; and his two stepdaughters, Valerie Justus-Rusconi and Christina Justus-Garcia.

HONORING ROBERT FAY ROCKWELL, JR.

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Fay Rockwell Jr. Bob Rockwell was born November 8th, 1911 in Bradford, PA. He attended Whittier College in California where he became friends with fellow