

## TRIBUTE TO ADAM SUSSER

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2006*

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention and that of Congress and the American people an inspirational story of a 5-year-old boy named Adam Susser; whose uplifting story is a true testament to the hope that stem cell research brings in the quest for the treatment and cure of numerous diseases, injuries, and birth defects from which hundreds of millions of people suffer worldwide.

Due to severe asphyxiation at birth, Adam Susser was diagnosed as being cortically blind with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy. Despite recommendations that Adam be institutionalized, and despite the grim predictions that he would never gain the ability to see or walk; his parents, Gary and Judith, and his twin brother, Brandon, refused to give up hope. With the help of the Genetics Policy Institute, a leading non-profit agency dedicated to the establishment of a positive legal framework to advance the search for cutting-edge cures like stem cell research, Adam's family discovered the means to provide him with the medical care he desperately needed.

Now, after receiving multiple stem cell treatments, Adam has miraculously recovered partial sight; he has overcome his atrophy, gaining the ability to move and walk; he communicates verbally and even goes horseback riding. While I am encouraged by Adam's astonishing progress against significant odds, his story casts a disturbing light on the current barriers that Americans face when seeking such treatment. Stem cell research, including embryonic-based research—which studies stem cells with the unique capability of developing into any cell type—offers the greatest hope to those who suffer from a myriad of deadly and debilitating diseases, like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, heart disease and diabetes. An even more promising aspect of embryonic stem-cell therapy is that it does not require expensive anti-rejection drugs after transplantation.

Unfortunately, the Bush Administration policy continues to hinder the use of embryonic stem cells by only allowing researchers access to a limited number of these cells, most of which are unusable due to contamination. This unconscionable policy stance takes us in the wrong direction, as the Administration and Congress should be doing everything in their power to facilitate the scientific and medical community's search for a cure to horrific diseases afflicting millions in America and globally. Adam Susser's story is a shining example of what can be achieved through the use of stem cell therapy, and I urge all my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing his courage as well as his family's refusal to give up hope.

## STEVEN ROBERT SOLLEE

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2006*

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate Steven Robert Sollee on his recent

offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Steven sought a nomination to West Point through my office, competing with a group of highly qualified applicants. He passed the evaluation process, and I am proud to give him a Congressional nomination.

Steven is currently a senior at Kingwood High School in Kingwood, Texas. He has dreamed of becoming an officer in the United States Army. Steven possesses many qualities that will make him an excellent cadet at West Point and upon graduation, an excellent officer in the United States Army. He has always shown a dedication to public service as an Eagle Scout and a member of the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts' Honor Society. Steven is a Christian with a deep faith in God that he demonstrates with his service to his church. He has a stellar academic background with 3.89 GPA and a class rank of 54 out of 980. He won the K-Award in Chemistry at Kingwood High School, which recognizes the best student of the class. Steven has achieved all these honors while participating in a demanding schedule of extracurricular activities, including varsity tennis, the high school band, the language club, the National Honor Society and the National French Honor Society.

The interview by my Service Academy Nomination Board was the real clincher for Steven. Nothing can replace a personal encounter to establish credibility and character. His interviewers said that Steven was a first class candidate, well qualified and highly motivated to attend West Point. They were impressed by his professed dream and knew Steven understood the gravity of the commitment to the Academy. They recommended him for a nomination without hesitation.

I believe that Steven is a fine Texan who will serve his country with distinction and I wish him good fortune in this new chapter of his life.

## TRIBUTE TO MAX FALKENSTIEN

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Max Falkenstien, the "Voice of the Kansas Jayhawks", who will be retiring at the conclusion of the 2005-2006 men's basketball season at the University of Kansas.

The conclusion of the current season will mark Max Falkenstien's 60th season of broadcasting Kansas University sporting events. At age 81, he has been inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, the College Football Hall of Fame, the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, and the KU Athletic Hall of Fame. He was the first inductee of the Lawrence High School Hall of Honor. Additionally, he has been awarded an honorary "K" by the Kansas Lettermen's Club. The Sporting News in 2001 named Falkenstien "the best college radio personality in the country" and ESPN's Dick Vitale included KU's Bob Davis and Falkenstien in his "Sweet 16" of the best announcer teams in the United States.

A true legend, Max Falkenstien has been synonymous with KU athletics for six decades. As KU basketball coach Bill Self recently said in the Lawrence Journal-World, "Max has per-

formed at the highest level over an extended period of time like very few in his profession." Falkenstien broadcast his first basketball game—an NCAA tournament game in Kansas City between KU and Oklahoma A&M—on March 18, 1946. His next broadcast was KU versus TCU in football on September 21, 1946. He was play-by-play voice of the Jayhawks for 39 years and then switched to a commentator's role in September 1984 when Bob Davis assumed play-by-play duties. Falkenstien provided play-by-play for the Big Eight Conference basketball game of the week between 1968 and 1971, and for more than three decades hosted football and basketball coaches' TV programs, including those for Don Fambrough, Pepper Rogers, Mike Gottfried, Ted Owens, Larry Brown and Roy Williams.

Mr. Speaker, I include with this statement a recent article from the Lawrence Journal-World summarizing Max Falkenstien's outstanding career and I join with all KU fans in wishing him well in his long overdue, richly deserved retirement as "Voice of the Kansas Jayhawks."

[From the Lawrence Journal-World, Jan. 7, 2006]

TO THE MAX

(By Dave Ranney)

A few seconds after he'd worked his way past security and into the Jayhawks' dressing room, veteran broadcaster Max Falkenstien fielded a warm, friendly—but unexpected—greeting. "Hey, Max, how're you doing?" It was Michael Lee, a popular reserve guard from last year's basketball team who had recently signed with the Harlem Globetrotters. Falkenstien smiled as they shook hands. There wasn't time to chat. A crowd of well-wishers had gathered around Lee and Kansas University had just trounced the Yale Bulldogs, 87-46, so Falkenstien needed to get ready for his postgame interview with coach Bill Self.

Quickly, Lee explained he was in town for a checkup for an irregular heartbeat. He wanted Falkenstien to know because the "Voice of the Jayhawks" cares. Despite their generational differences, Falkenstien, 81, and Lee, 22, are friends. "Max is cool," Lee said afterward. "As soon as you get here people start telling you, 'That's Max Falkenstien. He's been here forever.' So even before you meet him, you respect him. And then when you meet him, he's always nice. He always says hello. It's like you can't go wrong with him."

Lee isn't alone. Falkenstien, it seems, has more friends than Kansas has sunflowers. Some, like Wilt Chamberlain or coach Phog Allen, have been famous. Most are not. "I was with Max at the (KU vs.) K-State football game this year," said Jim Marchiony, KU associate athletics director. "It took us 20 minutes to get from the parking lot to the press box because so many people stopped to talk to him—and these were K-State fans! "Whenever you're on the road with Max, it's like you're with the mayor of whatever city you're in," he said. "It's amazing."

Late last summer, Falkenstien announced he would retire after the 2005-06 men's basketball season. Sixty years behind a microphone, he said, was enough. "I'll miss it terribly," Falkenstien told the Journal-World. "But I think this is a good place to stop. I don't want to overstay my welcome." Though he underwent emergency intestinal surgery Sept. 7, Falkenstien said he was in good health.

"My surgery was completely unexpected and had no relationship to my decision to retire," he said. "As far as I know, I'm in good