

graduated from Cortez High School and Grand Canyon University. It was in Arizona that he first discovered his love for banking.

In 1989, Ron was appointed Executive Vice President/Chief Administrative Officer of Desert Community Bank and President/Chief Executive Officer in 1990. Ronald is very dedicated to the banking business and as acting CEO, he has achieved unprecedented success for Desert Community Bank. In addition, Ron has also received a number of awards which he has shared with the Bank and its employees.

These extraordinary entrepreneurial skills, however, are not all Ron has given to the community. At present, Ron serves on the Board for Victorville Rotary, St. Mary Foundation, Partnership in Academic Excellence Foundation/Academy of Academic Excellence, United Way, Apple Valley Care Center, Victor Valley Union High School District and San Bernardino County Fair Board. Ronald also writes a weekly newspaper column for the Daily Press and hosts a weekly television interview shown on Channel 64 and two cable stations. Clearly, Ronald L. Wilson's service is a model of outstanding citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Ron that make our community a better place to live. I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the California Inland Empire Council of Boy Scouts of America in recognizing Ron Wilson as 1998 Citizen of the Year.

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#### RECOGNIZING ADVANCES IN THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

### HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary scientific contribution advances in Microbiological Sciences have made to the United States over the past century. These advances have improved the nation's health, economy and environment for all Americans. I'm recognizing these contributions on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Society for Microbiology, the oldest and largest single life science organization in the world.

Some of the greatest scientific achievements of humankind have come from microbiologists like Harold E. Varmus, J. Michael Bishop, Jonas Salk, Rosalyn Yalow, David Baltimore, Daniel Nathans, Hamilton Smith, Arthur Kornberg, James Watson, Baruj Benacerraf, Paul Berg, Selman Waksman, Joshua Lederberg, and many others. In fact, two thirds of all Nobel Prizes awarded in the past decade in Physiology or Medicine have been awarded in the microbiological sciences.

All life on earth is inextricably intertwined with microorganisms; without microorganisms all other life forms would cease to exist. Our own knowledge of fundamental life processes has been substantially advanced through the study and research of microorganisms.

Microbiological research contributes not only to the treatment, prevention and cure of infectious diseases—the leading cause of death worldwide—but also to treatments and cures for emerging diseases of humans, plants and animals that pose an increasing threat to public health. Microbiological research also has

led to developments in monitoring and improving the safety of our food supply, maintaining the quality of health care delivery, defending against biological weapons, and to the application and development of alternative methods of energy production and waste recycling, biotechnology, bioremediation of environmental problems, and even new sources of food. In addition, microbiological research has led to the development of new antibiotics and vaccines for diseases that have saved millions of lives and billions of dollars.

In addition to the importance of these scientific applications of Microbiology, the economic impact of a wide range of United States employers who rely on the microbiological sciences can not be underestimated. These employers include medical centers and clinical laboratories, pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology firms, food products manufacturers, colleges and universities, government laboratories, and national, state and local agencies have made the United States a world leader in biomedical research and development, and generates a positive balance of trade for our country.

Microbiological research creates high-skill jobs, helps retain U.S. leadership in biomedical research, protects the environment, and provides great hope for effectively treating, curing and preventing disease.

In conclusion, I wish to commend the Microbiological Sciences and in particular the American Society for Microbiology for their contribution to science and public health and congratulate the Society on an enormously successful century of public service.

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#### BEVERLY J. ROHRER, ED.D.: A DISTINGUISHED RECORD AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR THE REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

### HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Beverly J. Rohrer on her retirement as Superintendent of Schools for the Redondo Beach, California, Unified School District. Her retirement ends a distinguished and visionary career which began in the classroom in 1960.

Since Beverly became Superintendent in 1990, the Redondo Beach schools have led the nation in innovative approaches to the use of technology in education. For example, she helped create the ADTECH Consortium, a coalition of 12 Los Angeles South Bay School Districts, community colleges, universities and businesses which resulted in an innovative high-technology training and learning center called the "Futures Academy." I was proud to participate in the ribbon-cutting for the Academy, which has become a "technology schoolhouse" for educating teachers, students and the community. Technologically-proficient teachers, in turn, prepare youth for high-skilled, tech-driven jobs of our new economy.

Beverly also instituted many advanced educational programs. Stanford University selected Redondo Beach as the first district in the country to implement their pilot Accelerated School Program. The Getty Education In-

stitute for the Arts chose Redondo Union High School as a County Center of Excellence in Fine Arts. The award-winning Health, Fitness and Sport Academy promotes fitness and career opportunities. And, the Center for the Advancement of Arts and Entertainment is the focal point of the district's visual and performing arts curriculum.

Beverly's leadership inspired invention and confidence among students, parents and teachers. Students manage BeachNet, the district's Wide Area Network. Ninth graders and teachers have laptop computers to begin full high school participation in wireless, wall-free learning. KnowledgeNets is on-line 24 hours a day. And, high school students thousands of miles apart produced a musical, then performed together in Redondo Beach.

Among Bev's other contributions and professional affiliations are membership on the Executive Council of the Technology for Learning Initiative, The National School Board Association Institute for Transfer of Technology to Education, and IBM's ArtsEdTech 100 Conference.

Mr. Speaker, Bev Rohrer will be fondly remembered for her exhaustive efforts to address the challenges of educating adults and teaching young people in a world of constant and demanding change. But most importantly, she can look about the community and see a legacy made of the thousands of children, parents, teachers and administrators whose lives she touched. It is a legacy for which she can be immensely proud.

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#### AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

The House in a Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4101) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to further clarify my position on the Wildlife Services program at the Department of Agriculture. Today Mr. BASS and Mr. DEFAZIO offered an amendment to H.R. 4101 which reduces the appropriation for Wildlife Services by \$10 million, to \$28.8 million.

The intention of the Bass-DeFazio amendment is to prevent Wildlife Services from using controversial procedures and inefficient practices for killing predators in western states. The activities that have occurred in western state have been heavily criticized for their indiscriminate killing programs. The program designed to kill coyotes, for example, kills many pets and endangered species. Additionally, the program has been criticized for its wasteful spending practices in the west. In New Mexico, for instance, Wildlife Services spent more than \$2 million to kill predators that had inflicted \$167,000 to ranchers. I oppose these

activities and urge the Department of Agriculture to assure that Wildlife Services acts responsibly and efficiently.

I cannot, however, vote for the Bass-DeFazio amendment. Just last week in my congressional district, a cow was identified as having contracted Bovine TB, a dangerous livestock disease. The cow contracted the disease from an infected white-tail deer. There are several deer herds in northern Michigan which are identified as Bovine TB-positive herds. Wildlife Services has assisted the State in fighting to eradicate Bovine TB and is responsible for depopulating some of the infected deer herds.

I appreciate the efforts of Mr. BASS and Mr. DEFAZIO to change the way Wildlife Services does business. This amendment, unfortunately, does not clearly state which practices at Wildlife Services should be changed or how they should be changed. The language does not protect the many exceptional activities performed by Wildlife Services, like protection of human health and safety. We may all be able to agree that the intention of this amendment is to stop the controversial practices in the west, but there is no guarantee that intention will be implemented when Wildlife Services receives their FY99 appropriations on October 1. While I appreciate the efforts of Mr. BASS and Mr. DEFAZIO, I cannot vote to put each of Wildlife Services activities at risk.

A SALUTE TO THE DIKEMBE  
MUTOMBO FOUNDATION, INC.

**HON. LOUIS STOKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a very worthy cause. On Friday, June 26, the Board of Directors of the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation will hold a special celebration dinner. I am proud to speak to you today about this organization.

Atlanta Hawks player Dikembe Mutombo created the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation in 1997. He wanted an organization that would fulfill his longstanding desire to aid the plight of health care in Africa, particularly in his native homeland of Kinshasa, located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In the Congo, children die every day from curable diseases, the sole reason being lack of adequate health care resources. The Foundation was created to address that problem as well as to ensure that immunization programs are available, and to improve the health, education, and quality of life for the people of the Congo. Another of the foundation's major projects is to build a General Hospital in Kinshasa, the capitol city.

The humanitarian efforts of the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation are merely an extension of Dikembe Mutombo's personal efforts. Off season, Dikembe has made four goodwill ambassador trips in five years to Africa. In 1996, he provided uniforms and expenses for the women's basketball team from the Congo during the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. He has served as the international spokesman for CARE—an international relief effort organization. He travels throughout Africa on behalf of the NBA performing at basketball clinics for as many as 2,000 children per day.

Dikembe is also involved with the Strong STARTS (Schools Taking Action to Reach Troubled Students) program. Strong STARTS is designed to reach the growing number of adolescents suffering from untreated emotional disorders that impair academic performance and social achievement. He serves as a spokesperson for the Atlanta Hawks Team Up program. Team Up's foundation is making a difference in the community. It encourages middle school students to take an active role in their communities from conducting canned food drives and toy drives to recycling cans and working at a local senior citizen's homes and soup kitchens.

Dikembe visits local schools with the message of overcoming adversity, and promoting reading. Along with his promotion of good study habits and staying in school, Dikembe tapes Public Service Announcements on violence prevention, volunteerism, and not smoking.

Mr. Speaker, Dikembe Mutombo is a role model to many with his humanitarian efforts and selfless giving. He provides opportunities to many underprivileged children and remains a man who stays in contact with his native homeland. As a child, Dikembe had hopes of becoming a medical doctor, in an attempt to aid those in need in his hometown. His career as a pro athlete with the NBA has taken him down a different path. Dikembe has still managed to fulfill his childhood dream, by aiding not only his hometown, but those in the Atlanta and international community as well.

I would like to thank my colleagues for allowing me this time to give a special thanks to the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation, Inc., and to Dikembe Mutombo.

IN HONOR OF EMILY CIKRA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute an extraordinary and determined young lady, Emily Cikra. Although diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, Emily has boldly accepted the challenge and lives her life passionately, serving as a role model to all she meets. She powerfully tells her own story in the June 17, 1998 issue of the Plain Dealer:

SERVING A SPECIAL PURPOSE  
BAY TEEN WITH MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY OPENS  
OTHERS' EYES TO DISABILITIES

(By Emily Cikra)

When I was in second grade, a little girl came up to me on the playground and wanted to play. When I asked how she knew my name, she replied, "Everybody knows you, Emily. You're the famous girl in the wheelchair."

Some people think I'm special, but I'm not. I'm me.

I have had a disability my whole life. Neither my parents nor the doctors realized anything was wrong until I was 1, when I wasn't reaching the physical milestones a typical baby would.

I was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. This disease weakens the skeletal muscles and restricts me from walking. There are many types of muscular dystrophy; mine, called congenital, is one of the rarer types.

Early on, my parents tried to include me in everything typical kids were involved in.

They always assured me I was the same as everyone else; I just use wheels to get around instead of feet.

I have always believed this, and have done a lot of things people wouldn't expect me to be able to do. For example, I have skied at Boston Mills Ski Resort, gone to Girl Scout camp, ice skated in my chair, sledged, ridden roller coasters at Walt Disney World and swam in the ocean.

Kids in my grade and my whole community have always accepted me. They have been able to look past my disability and get to know me. I think it is a good experience for them to grow up with someone with a disability. Hopefully they will be able to see all people as equals and give everyone a fair chance.

Though it usually doesn't bother me, being in a wheelchair can get me down. There always will be things I can't do. It also makes some things more difficult, such as going into friends' homes, certain stores and restaurants.

Sometimes my friends make plans for activities that require physical agility, such as dances or sports. Transportation is an issue because someone has to be there who can drive my van with a lift. But as much as possible I participate and my friends are always considerate in thinking of how to include me.

This summer I would like to find a job, but due to mobility problems and general weakness, waitressing and typical teen jobs are out of the question. I guess I'll have to be a little more creative.

In the past few years I have realized that God put me here for a special purpose. I believe I am here to teach others that people with a disability are the same as other people, with feelings, opinions and ideas of their own.

I have begun trying to spread this word by talking at Bay Middle School for a diversity class that is a requirement for all fifth-grade students. People with disabilities and from different cultures talk to the class.

I tell the kids to ask anything on their minds, and if it's too awkward for me I will just pass. The questions they ask range from simple to very thoughtful. For example, "How many brothers and sisters do you have?"

Or "Do you have any pets?" to "Do you sleep in your wheelchair?" (No!) and "How do you get dressed in the morning?"

The kids are almost always more mature about meeting me than some adults are. For some reason, many grown-ups seem to think if you can't walk, you can't hear, see or think. They tend to talk down to me as if I were half my age.

Last year I had a setback just before Christmas. I developed pneumonia and was in Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital for six weeks. I had a tracheotomy (a small hole surgically cut in my windpipe) and now I use a portable ventilator to help me breathe.

Actually I feel a lot better, and I'm working on getting off the vent. Our lives are a little different. I have a nurse or an adult nearby at all times in case of an emergency. I am lucky to have four wonderful home-care nurses who have been very comforting to me.

It's not always easy, but I have a loving family, supportive friends and a community that rallies for me in a time of need. I'm not special, but I'm surrounded by a lot of people who are.

My fellow colleagues, join me in recognizing Emily Cikra. She is a special person and deserves our Nation's recognition.