

Champion, who also is a drummer and vocalist for a band called The Vetivers, attributed his success to having a supportive family, encouraging professors, a solid education from the Olathe school district and 12 years of experience in the Boy Scouts, which resulted in his achievement of Eagle Scout status. Champion also has won the Udall Scholarship for environmental studies and was a finalist for the Truman Scholarship.

Champion's father, Mike, credits his son's success to his positive, focused mind-set, his strong work ethic and his ability to adapt to any situation he's in. "I'm about as excited as a dad can get," he said. "It's one of those things where you pinch yourself to make sure you're awake and not dreaming."

WELCOMING ROTARY INTER-
NATIONAL PRESIDENT BHICHAJ
RATTAKUL

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an event that took place in my district yesterday, and to welcome the Rotary International President Bhichai Rattakul to Jacksonville and the United States.

The Rotary Clubs of Greater Jacksonville are dedicated and respected members of the large international humanitarian service organization. The Rotary Clubs of Greater Jacksonville are comprised of business and professional leaders who practice ethical standards in relationships in the community.

The many members of the Rotary Clubs of Greater Jacksonville dedicate their time, skills, expertise and other resources to help improve the lives of others in developing countries by supporting the Rotary Foundation and by working to eradicate polio worldwide; and consistently promote truth, fairness, and try to improve relations among the citizens of northeast Florida.

The Rotary Clubs of Greater Jacksonville provide friendship and fellowship to its members and visiting Rotarians. These dedicated men and women are some of the most active local citizens who motivate and influence community leaders through their efforts on a regular basis. But more importantly, the members of the Rotary Clubs of Greater Jacksonville are citizens of the World who live each day with the goal of "Service Above Self."

It was an honor for me to join the fine men and women of the Rotary Clubs of Greater Jacksonville on January 6, 2003, to welcome Rotary International President Bhichai Rattakul and thank him for his many efforts and his service on behalf of all Rotarians in Jacksonville, the Nation, and the World.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA C. MYERS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on December 30, 2002, Dr. Martha C. Myers died doing what she loved—helping and healing people as a missionary in Yemen.

Her death last Monday was the result of an Islamic extremist who smuggled a gun into her

hospital and opened fire. The gunman killed not only Dr. Myers but also two of her American colleagues and seriously wounded another. This act of senseless brutality against those devoted to goodness reminds us just how dangerous the world is even for those doing God's work.

Dr. Myers, a Jefferson County native, grew up in Montgomery wanting nothing more in life than to be a missionary. The daughter of Dr. Ira and Dorothy Myers, Martha Myers graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1963, and after completing her medical degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, committed to missionary life and doing what she believed God wanted her to do.

In 1977 she was assigned to Yemen as a missionary for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, working in the 80-bed hospital which treated more than 40,000 patients a year. Dr. Myers' medical career spanned 25 years as an obstetrician and surgeon, saving lives and giving hope.

Her brother Stephen said Martha gave away most of her small medical salary to others she felt more in need. She even recently divested her savings account to help pay the cost of a kidney transplant for one of the hospital patients.

Dr. Myers was a model citizen, a committed Christian, a shining example for us all.

President Bush has promised to bring to justice those responsible for the slayings. I join the President and my fellow citizens in strongly condemning this brutal act of murder and will work to ensure the United States Government and Yemeni officials work together to investigate the causes of this attack. We can not and should not tolerate the merciless killings of innocent Americans working and living abroad.

Let us send our condolences to the family of Dr. Martha Myers and our prayers that their grief may be soothed. But most importantly, let us keep the memory of Dr. Myers alive so her mission may not die in vain, but serve as a shining example for future American missionaries working to spread peace and hope throughout the world.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO MRS.
HELEN DOBSON

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, Mrs. Helen Dobson, who passed away on December 8, 2002.

Helen will be missed by all of us, but her memories will last forever in our hearts. She was a beautiful flower whose fragrance permeated her surroundings. Her songbird voice soothed the souls of many and brought joy to our hearts. Helen's untiring efforts on behalf of our community never went unnoticed, as she gave unselfishly of herself to meet the needs of others time and time again.

One of my fondest of many memories, is when Helen surprised me by singing "Happy Birthday" and inviting the congregation to join in, during a Sunrise Prayer Service at Central Baptist Church, in conjunction with a visit to my hometown of Beckley, West Virginia, by former U. S. Secretary of Transportation, Rod-

ney E. Slater. Secretary Slater was in awe of Helen's beautiful voice, as she sang her favorite song, "If I Can Help Somebody, Then My Living Shall Not Be In Vain."

I will never forget Helen's efforts on my behalf and the support she gave me throughout the years. I pray that Helen's memories will live forever in our hearts. It is for certain that, "Helen's Living Shall Not Be In Vain" and the West Virginia Hills are alive with the sound of her music.

U.S. EMPLOYEE, FAMILY UNITY
AND LEGALIZATION ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the "U.S. Employee, Family Unity and Legalization Act" or the "U.S.E.F.U.L. Act."

I am very pleased to reintroduce legislation that reflects the global reality of our economy and the migratory nature of the labor market. Today, more than ever, immigrants play a critical role in our country's well-being and competently fill voids in our workforce and add strength and stability to our society.

My bill will help many immigrants realize their potential and our Nation's promise. Tax payers, home and business owners, parents and grandparents, neighbors and friends will no longer be forced to hide in the shadows of a country with a broken immigration system.

The USEFUL Act will enable immigrants now in the country to become eligible for permanent residency if they have lived in the U.S. for at least 5 years, regardless of their current immigration status. My bill calls for an immediate revision of the "date of registry", a provision in current immigration law that allows people to apply for permanent resident status if they had entered the United States by a specific date.

Updating the registry date has been a sensible practice of our nation's immigration policy since 1929, yet Congress has allowed the registry date to remain set at January 1, 1972. As a result, the historic and fair recognition of valuable contributions of long-term, law-abiding, tax-paying residents of the United States has been undermined.

The 1972 registry date has essentially become obsolete. My bill would immediately update the registry date to January 1, 1998, thus granting legal status to any immigrant who can establish that he or she was living in the United States by that time. The registry date would then roll forward by one year at a time every subsequent year until 2009. Thus, my bill would eventually grant permanent residency to every immigrant who entered the United States by January 1, 2003.

Some people might say that this legislation is bold, ambitious, and faces an uphill battle. I agree.

This bill is all of those things, but it is also legislation that is sound, sensible, and will ultimately be successful. My proposal will not only benefit deserving immigrants who have adopted the United States as their home, but all people who rely on safe communities and a sound and sustainable economy.

Immigrants are vital to the health and strength of a number of economic sectors,

such as the agricultural, service and construction industries. Immigrants are also vital to the smooth running of our daily lives—they educate our children, wash our dishes, mow our lawns, take care of our aging parents and grandparents, serve our food and clean our homes.

If these workers are able enough, are responsible enough to care for our children, parents, and grandparents, should they not at least be afforded the benefits they have rightfully earned?

A study highlighting the economic contributions of immigrants released just last month by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University reported what many of us have understood for some time: Immigrant labor is absolutely essential to the health of the U.S. economy, both in terms of filling gaps in the labor market and expanding the nation's tax base.

Despite the well-documented contributions of immigrants, some people still might say, in light of the attacks of September 11, that this is a bill whose time cannot come.

I would strongly disagree. In fact, I would say that this bill is long overdue.

We must not let our national security concerns cast a dark shadow over the importance and real contributions of immigrants to our country. We should not allow terrorists to destroy the hopes and quest for a better life that is inherent in each and every immigrant seeking a better life while making a considerable contribution to our workforce.

Given the difficult lessons we learned from the tragedies of September 11th and our subsequent efforts to make this country safer for all of us, I would say we need this kind of bold immigration reform, like we have never needed it before. In fact, our national security demands it.

We are all aware than an estimated 8 to 9 million undocumented immigrants live in this country. Imagine this community of people currently living in the shadows brought forward to live openly in our society as legal permanent residents.

Imagine the relief it will provide to parents who, like the immigrants before them, came in search of a better life for their families.

Imagine the relief of employers who depend on the work of these immigrants to keep their hotels, restaurants, factories, and businesses afloat.

As a nation, we have committed immense resources to make our communities safer and to root out terrorists. Imagine our collective relief as Americans when we, alongside our immigrant friends who have come to build this Nation, are better able to focus our efforts on identifying and delivering justice to those that come to tear down this Nation.

The United States has been and always will be a country of immigrants. I believe the USEFUL Act will go far toward easing the plight of long-term U.S. residents who, for all practical purposes are here to stay, but who under current immigration law remain vulnerable. Ultimately, we will all benefit from a stronger, more stable workforce.

I also believe my bill will be extremely useful in our efforts to better secure the homeland and to protect us from future terrorist attacks.

I urge my colleagues to help achieve needed immigration reform by supporting the USEFUL Act.

CONGRATULATING THE WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY HILLTOPPERS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers on their first NCAA Division I-AA football championship.

Today in Bowling Green, they are putting up seven new signs for drivers to see when they come into the city, signs recognizing the Toppers as national champions. Here in Washington, I introduced a resolution congratulating the Hilltoppers on their win, and my Kentucky colleague Jim Bunning has introduced the same resolution in the Senate.

The 15th ranked Hilltoppers defeated top-ranked McNeese State 34–14 to take the championship on December 20. Western brought their best game to the playoffs and the championship, defeating the three highest ranked teams on their way to winning the title.

Just as they had all season, the Hilltoppers relied on their tough defense and strong running game. Jon Frazier rushed for 159 yards and two touchdowns, bringing his season total to 1,537 yards and moving him into second place in Western's running records. The defense combined for three interceptions and a sack, holding McNeese State well below its season scoring average.

In his 14th year at Western Kentucky, coach Jack Harbaugh saw the team's hard work pay off. He has built a successful program over the years that the university, the Bowling Green community and the state can be proud of.

After starting the season with a 2–3 record, and a loss to McNeese State, the Hilltoppers relied on their teamwork and dedication to win 10 straight games, finishing the season with the national championship.

I join Western Kentucky University and all of Bowling Green in congratulating the Hilltopper football team for its success. Go Big Red!

THE FAILED CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, there is an urgent need for the Congress to overhaul the failed child welfare system.

In 2000, almost 3 million instances of child abuse or neglect were reported and more than 870,000 incidents substantiated, and 556,000 children lived in foster care. A particularly horrendous example of abuse, and the failure of state agencies to address it, fills the newspapers today in reporting the tragedy in Newark, NJ.

Despite spending billions of dollars on child welfare, we continue to fail these and other children every day. Recent audits by the Department of Health and Human Services have found that *every state examined is out of compliance with federal regulations to protect children.*

Unfortunately, nearly every Member can find horrific stories in their own state about the failure of the child welfare system. In the most recent New Jersey tragedy, despite the state welfare system being repeatedly notified about abuse in this family over 10 years, two young brothers were found starving and neglected with their brother laying dead in another part of the basement. Serious reform at the local, state and federal levels is long overdue.

In November 2002, Representatives RANGEL and CARDIN and I convened a Child Welfare Summit that brought together child welfare experts, administrators, judges, and academicians to discuss the state of child welfare reform. Summit participants discussed the great need for reform and the communities in which improvements have been achieved. They called for more community involvement and partnerships, better investment in prevention, standards of accountability for welfare systems and improved caseworker training, supervision and retention.

The following article from The Washington Post discusses the urgent need for reform and some of the recommendations of the Summit. Congress needs to act without delay to review these findings and implement changes to safeguard our most vulnerable children.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 2, 2003]

BEFORE THE NEXT TRAGEDY

By Susan Notkin

We have become accustomed to the headlines: A child in foster care is missing. An infant is left alone in a locked car on a hot day. A child dies at the hands of a parent whose acts of abuse or neglect went unnoticed—or, worse, were noticed and ignored by those who might have helped. One week's troubling stories may come from Florida, Michigan or Texas, but the next week it could just as easily be another state, another child in the news.

These tragedies initiate predictable events. Politicians, journalists and others point fingers. A caseworker, supervisor or child welfare commissioner resigns. A blue ribbon panel is convened. But real system reform seems impossible, and the sense of urgency fades until the next headline.

In the year 2000, nearly 3 million cases of child abuse or neglect were reported, with more than 870,000 incidents substantiated. For each day of that year, three children died as a result of abuse or neglect. In 2000, more than half-a-million children were in foster care nationwide, many residing in communities far from their homes and families.

The problem is not lack of caring. Child welfare workers and administrators go to work everyday hoping to do their best for vulnerable children and families. But state and local agencies suffer from inadequate resources, high turnover, poor training, low pay and outrageously heavy caseloads. At present, dozens of states are either involved in child welfare class action lawsuits or are operating under court order for failing to adequately protect abused and neglected children. Still we lack the political will for major reform.

Recently, national child welfare experts and congressional leaders held a Child Welfare Summit to discuss urgent problems confronting child welfare services and to recommend priorities for reform.

Participants called for major changes in our nation's approach to protecting children. They recommended investing in prevention instead of continuing with inadequate after-the-fact responses. They stressed that efforts to hold child welfare systems more accountable must be coupled with relevant standards