

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DAY TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. We have much to celebrate as a country in respect to teen pregnancies and birth. Teen pregnancy, abortion and birth rates have all declined: the birth rate is down 31 percent from 1991–2002 and the teen pregnancy rate is down 28 percent from 1990–2000. While African American teens still have higher teen pregnancy rates than any other major racial/ethnic groups in the country, their rates are decreasing faster than the overall rates for teen pregnancy and birth in the United States. Between 1990 and 2000, the teen pregnancy rate among African American teens declined 31.5 percent.

There have been an exceptional number of organizations whose hard work and dedication through education and outreach services contributed to this decline. A few of those include our Community Health Center, the school health associations, the Ounce of Prevention Fund, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Still, there is no room for complacency. Nearly half of our Nation's high school students have had sexual intercourse; the average age of first intercourse for boys and girls is 15 and almost 25 percent report having sex with four or more partners by 12th grade. 35 percent of girls still get pregnant by age 20 in this Nation—nearly 850,000 teen pregnancies annually. In Chicago alone, more than 7,500 babies are born to teen moms every year, 88 percent of which are out-of wedlock. The numbers of teens contracting sexually transmitted diseases are just as startling. Each year one-quarter of the estimated 12 million new cases of STD, other than HIV, in the United States occur among teenagers. Adolescents have one of the fastest increasing rates of HIV infection; an average of two young people are infected with HIV every hour of every day.

Abstinence education should be taught but not without more education explaining the risks of being sexually active. With the high percentage of adolescence having sexual intercourse and according to the Illinois Department of Public Health only 35 percent of males and females nationally use a condom during every act of sexual intercourse, we can not pretend or even wish that our young people are waiting to have sex. Education works—we have proof of that with the decline in teen pregnancies and births. We need to ensure that our young people are receiving a comprehensive sex education program to effectively teach and encourage teens to delay sexual activity. The Alan Guttmacher institute found that between 1988 and 1995, three-quarters of the decline in teen pregnancy was due to improved contraceptive use among

sexually active teenagers with one quarter of the decrease due to increased abstinence.

Mr. Speaker, teen pregnancy is so closely linked to other critical social issues: child poverty, out of wedlock births, a well-trained and ready workforce, and a responsible fatherhood. Congress, communities, schools, parents, organizations and groups of faith should all join together in properly educating and demonstrating to our young people that adolescence is a time for education and growing up, not pregnancy and parenthood.

HONORING THE HISPANIC ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS IN TECHNOLOGY/SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AT NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology (HOST), the student chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). They were honored at the HOST/SHPE Gala Banquet on Thursday, April 29, 2004, at Ibera Restaurant in Newark, New Jersey. This year's gala banquet featured New Jersey State Assemblyman Wilfredo Caraballo as the keynote speaker, as well as NJIT President Robert Ailtenkirch and Provost Joel Bloom.

The Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers represents a group of extremely talented and dedicated students who have shown amazing promise and success. Established in 1991, the objective of the HOST/SHPE was to create an organization to serve as a role model to the Hispanic community. Under the leadership of Student President Cynthia Camacho, HOST/SHPE has continued to excel as one of the premiere HOST organizations in the United States. With the second highest membership of a Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers student chapter nationwide, HOST/SHPE was the recipient of New Jersey Institute of Technology's Newark College of Engineering 2004 Outstanding Student Organization.

Cynthia Camacho has also been acknowledged for her outstanding leadership. At the SHPE Eastern Technical Career Conference in Washington, DC, she received the Pedro Ortiz Student Leadership Award. This award is presented to the student member who has displayed leadership qualities in activities within SHPE and their community. Ms. Camacho has served as a role model for her peers and youth, through her outstanding academic excellence and commitment to her community.

Carlomango Ontaneda, the SHPE chapter advisor at NJIT, has been an integral force in

helping students achieve their goals at NJIT and beyond. For his dedication and tireless effort, Mr. Ontaneda was awarded the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers National Technical Career Conference Educator of the Year Award.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the achievements of Cynthia Camacho, Mr. Ontaneda, and the talented students of the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT BILLY JOE ORTON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, to die for one's country, while tragic, is the ultimate honor. To die for the freedom of others may not carry with it an adequate expression to illustrate the debt it generates. Today, I rise to honor Staff Sergeant Billy Joe Orton who was killed during his tour of duty in Taji, Iraq. He was 41 years old.

Staff Sergeant Orton dedicated his life to serving our Nation bravely. He served in Panama from November 1993 to November 1996; Egypt from October 2001 to August 2002, and was ordered to active duty for "Iraqi Freedom" on Oct. 12, 2003, with the 39th Infantry Brigade in Arkansas.

His dedication to his country was surpassed only by his love for his family, friends and community. The lives he touched were evident as more than 150 people recently gathered outside the Orton home where Staff Sergeant Orton lived with his wife, Margarita, and their three children. The crowd gathered carrying lit candles and a heavy heart as the community came together to share the grief with the Orton family.

Arkansans have always been proud of their tight-knit communities, but to see such an outpouring of support is proof of the magnetic personality Orton possessed.

Staff Sergeant Billy Orton fought honorably to establish freedom and democracy, and we are all struck by the enormity of this tragedy. We will remember Staff Sergeant Orton for his honor, his mettle and his bravery. On behalf of the Congress, I extend the utmost respect for a fine American, a loving father, husband and son, and the perfect model of a patriot.

RECOGNIZING BRITTANY SANDERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ms. Brittany Sanders of Kansas

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

City, Missouri. Ms. Sanders has been named one of the two top youth volunteers in Missouri for 2004 in the ninth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This is an extraordinary honor; more than 20,000 young people across the country were considered for recognition this year. The Prudential Spirit of Community Award was designed to emphasize the importance our Nation places on service to others, and to encourage young Americans of all backgrounds to contribute to their communities.

Brittany was nominated by St. Charles. Borromeo Parish School in Oakview, Missouri. As a seventh grader at St. Charles Borromeo Parish School, she organized a youth service club in honor of her best friend who died from brain cancer. Brittany began with small projects on her own, donating her birthday and Christmas gifts to sick children, cleaning up her block, collecting canned goods for a food pantry, and volunteering. "Kristin's Kids Club" has grown from 10 to 400 members, and has undertaken a wide range of community service projects.

Brittany developed a newsletter and Web site to support the club's activities, and is now spending a lot of time and effort starting similar groups in other cities and States. She has raised thousands of dollars for a variety of causes, such as the poor children of Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending this exemplary young lady for her dedication to community. Brittany is an outstanding role model and an exceptionally fine asset to the Sixth District of Missouri. I am proud of her and wish her well in any future endeavor she chooses.

TRIBUTE TO ELVIN R. CALDWELL,
SR.

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life of a distinguished public servant, Elvin R. Caldwell, Sr. This remarkable gentleman merits both our recognition and esteem as his impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service has moved our community forward and thereby, improved the lives of our people.

For Elvin Caldwell Sr., passion for social justice was not defined by the fanfare of public life. His passion was of lasting import. It was tempered by his calm bearing, firm resolve and a steady discipline which shaped civic accomplishments of immeasurable value to our community. Elvin Caldwell possessed the rare ability to transform the promise of equal justice and fair treatment into practicable reality and our lives have truly been enriched by his presence among us.

During his formative years in Denver, Caldwell knew both the racism and exclusion prevalent during the 1920's and 30's. At a young age, he participated in protest marches with his parents and the adversity he experienced forged a resolve and commitment to civil liberties that would sustain him through life's challenges. He recalled that "Denver was a very prejudiced city at one time . . . I used to watch my father—no matter how tired he

was—stand out there . . . [and] I realized that I had a debt to pay for what [he] fought to achieve." Elvin Caldwell Sr. made good on that commitment and built a legacy in which we take great pride.

He graduated from East High School in Denver and earned a track scholarship to the University of Colorado. Caldwell later married "Frankie" Harriett Webb and his marriage lasted for 60 years and produced four children. By 1950, he was a successful accountant and a member of the State legislature. He served three terms in the Colorado House of Representatives, but the barriers to passing progressive legislation proved to be considerable. In 1955, Caldwell chose to take on six primary opponents in a city council race and at the age of thirty-one, he became the first African American elected to the Denver City Council. He was elected council president five times and his tenure proved to be one that was defined by resourcefulness and statesmanship. Caldwell entered city government at a time when institutionalized discrimination was the norm. Qualified African American police officers couldn't climb through the ranks, there were no black judges, and the fire department was segregated—African Americans could only serve at one fire station. These deplorable conditions set in motion Caldwell's plan for change—to rid the civil service system of practices that either marginalized African American firefighters and police officers or excluded racial minorities from public service. City government needed to be opened up and Caldwell was up to the challenge.

Change did not come swiftly but the road to a more equitable society is never easy. He knew that change is unsettling and over the next decade, Caldwell's quiet persistence overcame obstacles and got things done. Even in the face of threats and militant confrontation by groups such as the Black Panthers, Caldwell remained courteous and unflappable. He once mused that "On life's journey, it's better if you can resolve things in a calm, sensible manner . . . It may take longer, but you can usually get more done."

Caldwell's leadership in city council created formal recruitment programs to bring more minorities into Denver's public safety departments and through his perseverance and skill, the State's first Fair Employment Practices Act was made law. He became a potent force in helping to revitalize the Five Points area and helped establish the Eastside Neighborhood Health Center as well as the Five Points Community Center.

His career on city council lasted twenty-five years and after seven terms, former Denver Mayor William McNichols appointed Caldwell Manager of Safety, making him the first African American to sit in a mayoral cabinet. He served on numerous community, State and national organizations including the Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He is credited for opening doors for other African American leaders including former Mayor Wellington E. Webb and City Council President Elbra Wedgeworth. In 1990, the Denver City Council created the Elvin R. Caldwell Community Service Plaza and on April 26, 2003, the City and County of Denver named the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in recognition of his lifetime of service to our community.

Recently, his portrait was hung in the library to honor him as a modest and dignified public

servant who left a powerful legacy of social progress. Truly, we are all diminished by the passing of this remarkable gentleman. Please join me in paying tribute to Elvin R. Caldwell, Sr. His life was rich in consequence and his deeds serve as an inspiration to us all. The values, leadership and commitment he exhibited during his life set the mark and compel us to continue the work that distinguishes us as a nation.

HONORING THE POLISH AMERICAN
CONGRESS OHIO DIVISION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they celebrate their 55th anniversary—sharing their cultural gifts along a parade route lined with food, song and joyous celebration.

On May 18, 1949, in Cleveland, Ohio, the Ohio Division of The Polish American Congress was founded. The Polish American Congress is composed of individuals of Polish ancestry as well as Polish organizations. The group serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Taking a positive stand on issues concerning the people of Poland, the group strives to attain a free market economy within the framework of a democratic society.

The goal of The Polish American Congress is to make Americans of Polish heritage more successful U.S. citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. In addition, the group supports fraternal, professional, religious, and civic associations dedicated to the improvement of the status of all Americans of Polish heritage.

It is evident that the Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish Community, and in its many years of service has been an invaluable contribution to the City of Cleveland and beyond.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the leaders and members of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate fifty-five years of promotion and guardianship of the heritage, history and culture of their beloved Polish homeland—providing awareness and connection to every new generation born in America, and enriching the diverse fabric of our entire Cleveland community.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CITY OF SESSER,
IL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like my colleagues to join me in honoring the centennial of one of the oldest communities in my congressional district, Sesser, Illinois.

Sesser's beginnings have a close relationship to the coal mining industry in southern Illinois. T. C. Keller came to Sesser from Indiana