EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF TOM DeLAY

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, as a former Speaker of the Florida House where the ethics process was never partisan, I have been saddened and disappointed at some of the wild ethics charges made by billionaire socialists and repeated by Democratic Members.

Let me say, there is no greater ethical sin by a Member, and no greater poison to our Congress, than to make false ethical charges against another Member for partisan gain.

The Democratic leadership has created a fog machine to attack TOM DELAY. They claim that the Democratic fog blown at the Leader is smoke; and insist that where there is smoke there must be a fire.

For three months Democratic leaders, while smearing our Leader, have instructed their 5 members of the Ethics Committee to kill the ethics process.

Yesterday, Chairman HASTINGS offered to hear allegations against the Leader. The Democratic attack machine refused, pandering to billionaire socialists who are organizing this attack not just on TOM DELAY, but the U.S. House itself.

Democrats realize their liberal agenda cannot give them a majority in this House. Realizing they cannot rule the U.S. House of Representatives, Democrats are determined to ruin it.

RAY CHARLES POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it greatly pleases me that Congress has decided to name the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4960 West Washington Boulevard in Los Angeles, California after Ray Charles. He fully deserves this honor, and I congratulate Congresswoman DIANE WATSON for sponsoring this successful and appropriate legislation.

In a career that spanned more than 50 years, Ray Charles enjoyed immense fame in the U.S. and abroad. His music unified people, crossing all lines of nationality, race, age and class. His music was universal in appeal and style, from gospel to country and everything in between. Sightless, he uniquely opened the eyes of all people to appreciate the beauty and talent of others.

He saw no differences in the aspirations of all people for freedom and justice. He advocated with equal vigor on behalf of African Americans for civil rights, freedom for South Africans and security for the people of Israel.

In his own life, he overcame blindness, poverty, racial discrimination, and personal failures, including drug abuse, to become a beacon of hope for anyone faced with challenges of any kind.

Ray Charles deserves to have a post office named after him, and more. I have introduced legislation that would award him the Congressional Gold Medal for his lifetime of achievement and service to the world community. I hope Congress supports this legislation and continues to honor this great man.

TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Many people have recently seen and heard a lot of well deserved praise for the university's men's basketball team as Coach Bruce Weber guided the team to a record tying 37–2 record and place in the National Championship game. The season brought a great sense of pride to me, my staff, the university, the Urbana-Champaign community, and State as a whole. This praise was not only as a result of the great accomplishments of the team, but the manner in which the team went about achieving its goals. The players played with such heart and determination, all the while truly playing unselfishly as one cohesive unit, not as individual players. I would ask my colleagues to take this opportunity to congratulate and honor Coach Weber, his staff, and the young men who put on the uniforms and played the game the way it was meant to be played.

While many Americans may have first been exposed to the university during this special basketball season, I have had the distinct privilege to represent the university for almost 30 years; first as a State Representative and now as a Congressman from the 15th District of Illinois. I would therefore like to rise today to also pay tribute and bring recognition to the other highly successful athletic programs and the highly recognized and honored academics at the university.

Mr. Speaker, this year alone the university has been honored to be represented by the nationally ranked No. 2 men's tennis team, the No. 3 men's gymnastics team, the No. 6 men's wrestling team, the No. 14 women's soccer team, and the No. 20 women's cross country team. Let me take this time to honor and thank Coach Craig Tiley, Coach Yoshi Hayasaki, Coach Mark Johnson, Coach Janet Rayfield, Coach Karen Harvey, and all of the young men and women who have strived for greatness and brought a great deal of pride to me, my staff, the Urbana-Champaign community, and the university.

While these are all great accomplishments, without the same degree of success in the academic realm, these feats would all be for naught. I am proud to say that the university, President B. Joseph White, Director of Athletics Ron Guenther, the faculty, the coaches, and the students at the University of Illinois have all helped make this one of the top academic institutions in the world and its graduates some of the most successful. In 2004 U.S. News & World Report ranked many undergraduate programs at Urbana-Champaign campus in their Top 10 in the country, including: accountancy, 1st, materials science, 1st, civil engineering, 2nd, computer engineering, 5th, real estate, 7th, and marketing, 10th. In 2003, the University of Illinois earned the distinction of being the only U.S. public university to have two of its faculty members, Anthony J. Leggett, physics, and Paul C. Lauterbur, medicine, win Nobel prizes in the same year. The list of distinguished alumni is far too long to include here, but it includes: CEO's, government officials, world class researchers, astronauts, and Pulitzer Prize winners, to name a just a few.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to everyone who is involved in the University of Illinois and to thank them for their dedication, hard work, and vision to make the 15th Congressional District, the State of Illinois, the Nation, and the world as a whole a better place to live for all of us.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I speak with mixed emotions, while passage of a comprehensive energy bill is important, there is still work to be done on the bill before us. Please do not misunderstand me, there are good aspects to the bill. For example, the bill provides for much needed advances in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and nuclear. While I understand the rationale behind a structured rule, it is unfortunate, that all the amendments offered could not be ruled in order. This would have allowed for much needed debate in our attempt to solve our Nation's energy crisis. In our efforts to pass a comprehensive bill, we must not overlook the importance of keeping dialogue open on all fronts.

I would like to take a moment to mention my essential amendments that were not ruled in order. My first amendment would have required that a report be submitted, every two years, to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, assessing the contents of natural gas and oil deposits at existing drilling sites off the coast of Louisiana and Texas. This amendment should have been ruled in

order because new supplies are vital to long-term economic stability and to current and future employment. Exploration of the Western Gulf of Mexico will permit access to one of our largest sources of oil.

Among other things my second amendment was designed to ensure that the large fluctuations in the price of transportation fuels will not continue to pose significant impediments to budget planning for consumers, businesses, and Federal, State and local governments. Despite the fact this amendment was not ruled in order, it is crucial that there be established a sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, should commence an immediate investigation on the causes of high gasoline prices in the United States and, in collaboration with the petroleum industry and the Congress, develop a solution to such prices.

Finally, my third amendment would have given Historically Black Colleges and Universities, HBCU, the opportunity to develop new and existing programs in the area of alternative energy technologies. In our Nation's effort to become more energy independent, it is critical that we allow for as much research and development as possible. African Americans have made outstanding contributions to the energy industry and I see no reason not to allow them to make even more contributions now.

Mr. Speaker, while I support many aspects of the bill, I oppose the rule.

CONGRATULATING MATHILDA SHEPTAK ON 40 YEARS IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating my good friend Mathilda Sheptak as she marks her 40th year in the tourism industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mathilda was born into the hospitality field. Her family ran a boarding house with a restaurant and gas station in Lakewood, New Jersey. Mathilda is the daughter of Louis and Catherine Barravecchia. Mathilda is married to Steve Sheptak, a retired IBM sales and marketing executive.

When Mathilda was eleven years old, her family bought the Overlook Inn in Canadensis. The tourism industry was the dominant business in the rural Poconos.

At this time, Pocono resorts were open from Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The family resort had 30 rooms and no liquor license. Guests were served three meals a day. Entertainment revolved around card games, cookouts, a pool table, and eventually, a swimming pool.

Mathilda thrived on meeting the guests and developing interpersonal relationships with the families who would return year after year. Mathilda grew up with the "resort brats"—the children of all the other resort owners. During the off-season, these families worked to improve their resorts and planned for the coming season.

Mathilda attended Pocono Mountain High School and was part of its first graduating class. She attended East Stroudsburg University and then worked at a corporation that manufactured products for IBM.

Mathilda joined the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau on February 1, 1965, as a secretary and subsequently moved up to office manager. She eventually took over the No. 2 spot at PMVB, and has been deputy executive director ever since. In this position, she is responsible for the budget, environmental planning, financing and statewide issues.

Forty years in tourism is a testament to Mathilda's love of the Pocono region. I am fortunate to have worked with such a dedicated individual in promoting the tourism industry.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mathilda Sheptak on this milestone and wishing her many more successful years. Tourism remains the area's largest industry and Mathilda is a big part of that legacy.

IN RECOGNITION OF QUINCY BOCK FOR RECEIVING THE GOLD AWARD FROM THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Quincy Bock of Senior Troop #1107 as she receives the honor of a Gold Award from the Girl Scouts.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout may earn. It is not an honor given lightly. The young women who receive this award must demonstrate leadership skills, organizational skills, and sense of community and commitment. Quincy Bock exhibited all these skills with her Gold Award Project, a Resource for Refugees, for The Nile Sisters, a non-profit organization that helps refugee families become self-reliant through education and support.

Quincy successfully created three databases and produced two pieces of literature for The Nile Sisters to use in helping refugee families. The databases Quincy designed and the training she gave the organization will greatly increase the organization's efficiency. In addition, the pamphlet she created has already generated a number of donations and offers of assistance. Because of Quincy's direct contribution, The Nile Sisters will be able to better serve refugee families seeking a better life here in America.

I am proud to recognize Quincy Bock's achievements. She is a shining example of the promise of the next generation. She has already set what I hope is the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship. I congratulate Quincy and her family on this momentous occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 2005

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Retirement Security Act of 2005. This bill addresses the financing problems facing the Social Security Trust Fund through the creation of Personal Social Security Investment Accounts for each newborn child. This plan would establish a mechanism for reducing the long term fiscal pressures facing Social Security without changing the current benefit structure or diverting payroll taxes from the Trust Fund.

My bill seeks to use the benefits of the private market to place Social Security on a sound financial footing, as do a number of other reform plans. But more than that, I seek to maximize the magic of compound interest by opening savings accounts for future retirees as soon as they are born. Under the Retirement Security Act, the Federal government would create a personal investment account for each newborn American child with an initial government contribution of $1,000. The account would be invested in any of the funds available to Federal employees through the Thrift Savings Plan, and earnings would accrue tax free. Account holders, or the parents of minor account holders, would be free to make additional pre-tax contributions to these accounts and enjoy the opportunity to invest in these safe and well-managed investment accounts.

At retirement, each retiree would qualify for the same Social Security benefit as earned under the current Social Security system. Benefits would be paid first from each worker's personal account, and payments from the Trust Fund would begin only after the balance of the personal account had been depleted. Those who take advantage of the opportunity to make additional contributions may well find their balance in excess of the amount needed to fund their Social Security benefits, and these funds would belong to the individual investor. My bill provides a variety of options, including lump sum distributions and the purchase of life annuities with level or inflation-adjusted monthly payments for disposition of the surplus balance.

An initial contribution of $1,000 invested today that grows at the average combined rate of return of the five Thrift Savings Plan investment options would grow to an inflation adjusted balance of $58,000 by retirement at age 67. For purposes of comparison, this amount would be enough to purchase an annuity with a monthly payment equal to 46 percent of the today's average Social Security retirement benefit. A single matching payment of $1,000 by a parent on the occasion of their child's birth would endow an account which would produce almost 100 percent of the average benefit and, perhaps just as important, give that child the gift of a lifelong savings vehicle which offers the potential of greater financial security in retirement than can be provided by Social Security alone.

Clearly, the focus of my legislation is long-term. Social Security's fiscal problems will begin to pinch long before children born today are ready to retire. By now, we're all familiar with the projections provided in the annual report of the Social Security Board of Trustees. The Trustees have forecast that our current Social Security surpluses will turn to deficits by 2017 and that the bonds collecting in the Social Security Trust Fund will be fully redeemed by 2041. At that time, it's anticipated that payroll taxes will be sufficient only to pay 74 percent of expected retirement benefits. Though my legislation would make no other