

will create jobs and wealth. The only question is, who will benefit. Will America lead the way as we have in all other scientific advancements? Will we be the pioneers and producers? Or, will we relegate ourselves to mere consumers who send our fortunes around the world?

The question is whether America will continue to lead the world in scientific breakthroughs or take a backseat to other countries.

We can already read articles in our daily newspapers that tell us of the commitments other countries have made to this research and the subsequent advancements they have made. Two years ago, China announced plans for the construction of a massive stem cell complex in Tianjin, which is scheduled for completion in 2010. One of their professors claimed, "We are not that far behind [the West] anymore." We have come a long way from the shocking news eight years ago that researchers in Scotland cloned Dolly the Sheep to the promising news just last week that researchers in South Korea produced 11 new embryonic stem cell lines that were genetic matches to patients with devastating diseases and ailments. Increasingly we are reading about advances that occur in other places around the world. Some of these advances raise ethical concerns, but because they do not occur on our shores, we do not have a say over the ethical standards and considerations that accompany the research.

I do not intend to imply that nothing is happening in America. To the contrary, many scientists, many of them in my own district, are working feverishly to find new cures for various diseases. I understand that some Americans object to embryonic stem cell research. However, many thoughtful, principled persons from all of our Nation's religious and ethical traditions support embryonic stem cell research. Self-anointed moralists should not jeopardize the health of our loved ones and the economic future of our country.

We will not know for another decade just how far we have fallen behind the rest of the world. I am including for the record just a small list of scientific breakthroughs using these procedures that have been made in other countries. We have waited long enough to expand our Nation's restrictive policy. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes for H.R. 810.

STEM CELLS—MAY 2005

1997

Scotland—An embryologist at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh created a lamb using DNA from adult sheep—known to the world as Dolly the Sheep

2002

Singapore—Researchers grow human embryonic stems cells without using animal cells to protect them.

2003

Japan and Scotland—Researchers identify a gene in embryonic stem cells that allows them to regenerate and develop into any kind of cell.

2004

Israel—Researchers develop human embryonic stem cells into beating heart cells.

Israel—Scientists coax embryonic stem cells to become nerve cells that when transplanted into rats with symptoms of Parkinson's alleviate some of the symptoms.

Israel and Chicago—Teams from Israel and Chicago develop disease-specific embryonic stems cell lines from embryos carrying genetic disorder.

South Korea—Researchers produce a human embryonic stem cell line through somatic cell nuclear transfer.

2005 (JUST LAST WEEK)

South Korea—Scientists create stem cell lines that are tailored to match the DNA of patients with medical conditions, creating 11 new lines from patients with spinal cord injuries and juvenile diabetes—putting the promise of effective treatments within reach.

RECOGNIZING ADRIAN ANTHONY REMPILLO EVANGELISTA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Midshipman Adrian Anthony Rempillo Evangelista on his graduation from the United States Naval Academy and his commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps on Friday, May 27, 2005. Adrian hails from our sister island to the north, Tinian. He is a young man of character and determination who, if his past success is any indication, has a promising future ahead.

Adrian has distinguished himself during his four years at the Naval Academy, where he will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. Most Marine Corps officers seek positions in the infantry, but for Adrian—who marches to a different beat—Navy familiarization training has convinced him that Marine Corps aviation provides the greatest challenge and fulfillment. Following completion of his training in Quantico, Virginia, Adrian plans on pursuing a career as a Marine pilot and will attend flight school in Pensacola, Florida.

Adrian was an outstanding athlete at the Naval Academy. As the 2005 Brigade Boxing Champion at the 139 pound weight class, Adrian went on to become the 2005 Midwest Regional Champion. He finished his collegiate boxing career by placing third at the National Collegiate Boxing Championship held in Colorado Springs, Colorado earlier this year, earning All-American Collegiate Boxing Team honors from the National Collegiate Boxing Association.

Midshipman Evangelista's parents are Antonio and Evelyn Evangelista and he is the oldest of four children. He is a graduate of Tinian High School. We all share in the pride that the people of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands have in Adrian Evangelista's accomplishments.

Semper Fidelis!

THE FASTER AND SMARTER FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that I will be voting for H.R. 1544, the Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responder Act with the expectation that this bill's

serious flaws will be fixed in conference negotiations with the Senate.

Our police, firefighter and other emergency service officers are routinely putting themselves at risk in order to ensure our safety. As a strong supporter of our nation's first responders, I believe it is imperative that the federal government provide these fine, brave public servants the resources they need to properly respond to threats of terrorism.

Unfortunately, the current system for distributing grants to first responders does not allocate funding in a timely fashion. According to the Department of Homeland Security, only about 48 percent of the funding obligated to the State of North Dakota between 2002 and 2004 has actually been spent to support first responders' efforts to prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks, leaving about \$20.6 million to still be spent. H.R. 1544 addresses this issue by streamlining the funding process for terrorism preparedness grants and moving the planning to the front end of the application process. By restructuring this process, it is predicted that the time it takes to get funds from the federal government to the local entity will be shortened by about 6 months.

However, I have deep concerns regarding the minimum funding levels provided in H.R. 1544. Every state and city needs to have some minimum infrastructure for emergency response. Unfortunately, the minimum funding levels provided in H.R. 1544 do not go far enough to ensure that a rural state such as North Dakota will be provided the resources needed to develop and maintain a safe, emergency response infrastructure. Seeing that we do not know where terrorists will strike next, it is important that all communities possess properly trained first responders who are equipped with the appropriate equipment and technology to prevent, prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism. Despite my objections to H.R. 1544's minimum funding levels, I am going to vote for this bill based on the expectation that the minimum guarantee will be increased during negotiations with the Senate.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ELEANOR FORD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eleanor Ford, Executive Director of the Hartsville-Trousdale County Chamber of Commerce and Roastee of the Trousdale Reading, Education, Arts, Drama and Science (READS) Benefit Roast, Thursday, May 26, 2005.

Eleanor has quite a large list of individual accomplishments, as well as numerous contributions to the Hartsville, Tennessee community. She was a florist for 32 years, an instructor at Volunteer State Community College in Hendersonville, Tennessee, Brownie Scout Troop Leader, President of the PTA, during which time she brought a music instructor into the school system, and the first woman to serve on a jury in Trousdale County. Eleanor was chosen as the first Ms. Senior Tennessee in 1991 and was in the Top Ten in Atlantic City. She later served as Board Chairman for Ms. Tennessee Senior.

Most everywhere you look in Hartsville, there are touches of Eleanor: Fred's the Dollar Store, Subway, Trey Park, the Gazebo, the 1800's train depot, the amenities around the courthouse, and the Living History Museum. Eleanor continues to work tirelessly to make Hartsville an even better place to live.

Currently, Eleanor stays busy teaching Seniorize Class twice a week, hosting a radio show each Friday, and writing a weekly column.

The Trousdale READS program was formed earlier this year to promote learning and oversees the distribution of books from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The program provides a free book each month to every child under age 5 in the county. I can think of no better way to honor Eleanor, than to do so in a way which benefits Trousdale County. I wish Eleanor and her family continued success.

PROTECT FIRST AMENDMENT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I, like many, believe that the First Amendment is currently under attack. Yesterday I attended a forum titled "Media Bias and the Future of Freedom of Press." I'd like to submit to the RECORD the statement that I distributed there yesterday, as well as the Freedom of Information request that I filed with the Department of Justice.

I'd like to call attention to an issue of extreme and growing importance: an alarming trend in the dilution of First Amendment rights regarding freedom of the press. Today reporters are being compelled to reveal their confidential sources—or else face jail time and/or stiff fines. Prosecutors are insisting upon this and judges are backing up their demands by ordering reporters to testify and provide confidential information. This is turning the news media into an investigative arm of the judicial system and a research tool of the government—exactly the opposite of what it is supposed to be. The increasing pressure on journalists will most certainly lead to a decline in investigative reporting, threatening freedom of press and the public's need, and right, to know.

This trend is not just talk, although anecdotally, the past few years document the greatest assault on source confidentiality in the U.S. in decades. Hard evidence and more specific statistics are being sought so that this issue can be brought to the attention of the nation without room for dispute. In fact, in an effort to uncover statistics that the government is unwilling to disclose, I have just filed a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the Department of Justice, asking for access to and copies of records which show the number of subpoenas requested, as well as the number of subpoenas authorized, in order to obtain information from, or about, members of the news media in the years 2001–2004. I believe this information will prove that my concerns with the First Amendment go farther than just anecdotes. As soon as I obtain this information, I will release it to the public, as I feel it will be very eye-opening.

The protection of freedom of the press is a central pillar of our democracy, and sharing information with the public is imperative in a nation with these strong democratic traditions. Other countries are being sent the

wrong message when they look to us and see the precedents that we are setting. For example, when Venezuelan officials were recently criticized for adopting a restrictive new media law, they immediately cited a ruling that sentenced a Rhode Island journalist to six months house arrest for refusing to divulge a source. As is evident from Venezuela, instances such as these are bound to weaken freedom of press in other countries, where reporters are already more frequently forced to cooperate in government investigations. The last thing we need is for international journalists to be questioning our dedication to upholding free speech guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

We must do something to remedy this situation that is making honest journalism and true confidential sources a thing of the past. The administration and judiciary should exercise greater discretion in requiring reporters to reveal their sources so that journalists and every American can regain their confidence in the First Amendment's protection.

FATHER LAWRENCE T. GAUTHIER 50TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding man of faith, Father Lawrence T. Gauthier. On June 4th, 2005, Father Gauthier will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a priest. Father Gauthier's contribution to the Catholic Church and his faith has touched so many in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and beyond.

Father Gauthier's has focused on education throughout his entire life. Born to Leo and Margaret Gauthier on February 26, 1929 in Marquette, Michigan, he attended grade school in the Catholic school of Marquette. In 1949, he studied at the Salvatorian Minor Seminary and St. Francis Major Seminary in Wisconsin, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in 1951. He then went on to complete four years of theology at St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan.

On June 4th, 1955 at St. Peter Cathedral, Bishop Thomas L. Noa, D.D. ordained Father Lawrence T. Gauthier as a priest of the Holy Catholic Church. Although he had obtained a major goal in his career, he continued to pursue his education. In 1960, Father Gauthier attended Catholic University where he earned his Masters Degree in school administration and counseling. From 1965–1973 he undertook post graduate studies in his hometown of Marquette at Northern Michigan University in Education Systems. He also studied at Mount Mary College in Cincinnati, Ohio and Catholic University in Washington, D.C. in the field of Religious Education.

As a priest, Father Gauthier has dedicated his entire life and career to the church. He served as administrator of two missions in the diocese and also as pastor at Nativity Parish in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Michael's Parish in Marquette and St. Louis the King Parish in Marquette.

During those years in the church, he continued his devotion to education by spending the greater part of his priestly ministry in the field of Catholic Education serving as principal of Loretto Central High School in Sault Ste. Marie, Holy Name High School in Escanaba

and Bishop Baraga Central High School in Marquette. In 1968, he was appointed Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Marquette and three years later was appointed Superintendent of Catholic Education focusing on not only Catholic schools but also for all religious education throughout the Diocese.

Throughout his 50 years of ministry, Father Gauthier has held many positions in the church. He was the Director of Evangelization and served as Secretary, Treasurer and then as President of the Priests' Council. He was a member and President of the Priest Personnel Board and also a member of the Diocesan Reconciliation Board. He spent several terms on the St. Joseph's Association for Priest Retirement and was also a consultant to the Bishop.

Although Father Gauthier is retired now, he continues to help parishes and serve his faith. He continues his 30th year as Director of the Propagation of the Faith, Director of the Holy Childhood Association, the Home Mission and in 2000 he was assigned as the Catholic Relief Services Director. Once again for the third year, Father Gauthier has been assigned to represent the senior priests of the dioceses on the Priests' council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Father Lawrence T. Gauthier for his service to the Holy Catholic Church and his tireless dedication to the value of education and involvement in his faith community. Beyond the incredible credentials, leadership roles and accomplishments that span his lifetime, Father Gauthier has shown unwavering commitment to the people he has served. He has truly done God's work through his teachings and as a role model for parishioners.

HONORING THE TOWN OF MILLRY, ALABAMA, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Town of Millry, Alabama, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its founding.

Millry was founded on June 2, 1905, incorporated in 1921, and the community's first election was held in 1922. Millry derived its name from "Mill Creek," which ran almost directly through the center of the town and was a resource which contributed heavily to the community's development. Millry also took its name from the two grist mills and the saw mill located on the creek's fast-flowing waters. Settlers who came to the Millry area were attracted to the fishing at the state lake, the beautiful scenery of the stands of tall pine trees, and the green pastures.

The first schools were run in local homes or in available buildings. In the early 1900s, a small school served by three teachers was constructed. Later, a two-story school building was constructed in 1920, with the first graduating class marching in 1929. Additionally, in those early days, there was only a single church of the Methodist denomination which was built in 1910.