

workers and shareholders take it on the chin. Their investments and savings, tied to corporate growth and built up over the years, have vanished. Plans of retirement are halted, either permanently or indefinitely; and many workers find themselves forced to work in their golden years.

Today, I have introduced legislation to require an advance disclosure to a company's shareholders upon the creation of or substantial increase in special retirement plans for executives. This will bring desperately needed transparency to the boardroom. Under current law, benefits payable under these plans are not considered reportable compensation, which is why this disclosure is necessary. This would allow shareholders to be proactive in determining whether or not their CEO deserves the millions he or she is getting paid.

I understand that this is a departure from the typical form of disclosure, however I believe the current environment under which Corporate America operates needs to change. We must improve investor confidence, and the advance disclosure of excessive corporate compensation will move us in that direction.

#### A HEALTHY DEMOCRACY

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the basic fact that, in our hearts, the American people truly love democracy. We love the ability of the people to influence the actions of decision-makers, of lawmakers and presidents to be removed from or elevated to office by the will of voters, and of the community to connect amongst diverse populations through the ballot box. We have passed legislation, protested on streets and waged wars to guarantee that every American has our most basic right, the right to vote, and our defining moments have been about the protection of this individual right.

Despite the struggles and challenges of the past and our passion for voting rights, we still routinely deny the right to vote to millions of ex-offenders, who have paid back their debt to society. In many states, there is no judicial determination of this high penalty. There is no connection to the crime committed and the punishment imposed. The denial of the right to vote is automatic based simply on a conviction, regardless of the nature of the crime or the individual involved. Reversing that decision and retaining one's right to vote in many states is nearly impossible and requires action by the Governor. As a Nation, we have long fought for the right of every citizen to vote; it should not be so easy to take that right away.

This denial erases the very core of our citizenship. It places the released ex-offenders on the outskirts of society and outside the decision making process. Their voice is silenced on the important issues of their community and this great Nation. Their unalienable right is taken away by legislative fiat in the interest of being "tough on crime." They are ostracized from their community and effectively denied the right to choose representatives and voice their opinion in public policy. They are relegated to the status of second-class citizens in terms of politicians, community leaders, and unfortunately themselves.

On the outskirts, many ex-offenders are frustrated and discouraged in their efforts to become contributing members of society. Denied the right to vote and to choose leaders and policymakers, ex-offenders often feel that they are not a part of this democratic system and this society. Their alienation, compounded by the stigma of their criminal record, limits their ability to be fully reintegrated into society.

If we believe in our current penal process, then the penalties imposed by judges and juries should be the only sanctions for one's crime, not the invisible sanctions of the legislature. If we do not believe in that process, then we should work to effectively reform the system and allow it to serve its true criminal, rather than civil, purpose. Regardless of our belief in the criminal justice system, disenfranchisement of ex-offenders is abhorrent to our beliefs. They are citizens. They have paid for their violations of our laws and they must be effectively reintegrated into our communities.

I submit for the RECORD an editorial from today's edition of the New York Times. Congress should heed the advice of the New York Times on this issue and once again protect the right to vote for all Americans. Too many have fought and died for this right to be lost.

[From the New York Times, Jun. 22, 2005]

#### EXTENDING DEMOCRACY TO EX-OFFENDERS

JUNE 22.—The laws that strip ex-offenders of the right to vote across the United States are the shame of the democratic world. Of an estimated five million Americans who were barred from voting in the last presidential election, a majority would have been able to vote if they had been citizens of countries like Britain, France, Germany, or Australia. Many nations take the franchise so seriously that they arrange for people to cast ballots while being held in prison. In the United States, by contrast, inmates can vote only in two states, Maine and Vermont.

This distinctly American bias—which extends to jobs, housing, and education—keeps even law-abiding ex-offenders confined to the margins of society, where they have a notoriously difficult time building successful lives. A few states, at least, are beginning to grasp this point. Some are reconsidering postprison sanctions, including laws that bar ex-offenders from the polls.

The Nebraska Legislature, for example, recently replaced a lifetime voting ban for convicted felons with a system in which ex-offenders would have their rights automatically returned after a two-year waiting period. Iowa, which also bars former prisoners from voting for life, took a similar step forward last week when Gov. Tom Vilsack announced his intention to sign an executive order that would restore voting rights to felons after they complete their sentence.

Governor Vilsack's decision is particularly important, given that Iowa has some of the most severe postprison sanctions in the country. Governor Vilsack's decision is particularly important, given that Iowa has some of the most severe postprison sanctions in the country. The other four states with similar laws are in the South, where disenfranchisement was created about a century ago, partly to keep black Americans from exercising their right to vote.

The Iowa and Nebraska cases reflect a growing awareness in some of the states that these laws offend the basic principles of democracy. They also stigmatize millions of Americans, many of whom have paid their debts to society and want nothing more than to rejoin the mainstream. The more the United States embraces this view, the healthier we will be as a nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH LONG BEACH, MISSISSIPPI

### HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2005*

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church located in Long Beach, Mississippi.

In early 1905, Bishop Thomas Heslin of the Natchez Diocese directed the order of St. Vincent de Paul, known as Vincentians, to build a church and religious retreat to fill the needs of the parishioners of Long Beach, Mississippi City, Perkinson and Wiggins. Forty acres of land were acquired on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and the church was consecrated as St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church on July 15, 1905.

As the City of Long Beach grew, so did the mission of the church. In 1915, St. Thomas was designated a parish church by Bishop John Gunn with Father Joseph Hagar serving as the new parish's first pastor. September 3, 1922 marked the first day of school for students of St. Thomas Elementary School, staffed by the Daughters of Charity.

August 17, 1969 marked a tragic day for all of South Mississippi when the Gulf Coast was struck by Hurricane Camille, a category 5 storm and the strongest hurricane to strike the United States in the 20th century. Camille destroyed the original 1905 St. Thomas Church and most other church associated buildings. As the region slowly recovered the church was rebuilt. Bishop Joseph Brunini dedicated the new St. Thomas Church on August 20, 1972.

The Vincentians ceded the parish to the Diocese of Biloxi in the summer of 1993, and Father Louis Lohan was named pastor of the congregation. The church's most recent major addition was the Parish Life Center, which was dedicated in November 2002.

So it is my great honor to congratulate the people of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church on their 100th anniversary.

#### TRIBUTE TO VERNON PARKER

### HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2005*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today in support of a statement entered into the RECORD June twenty-first by my friend and colleague, Mrs. MUSGRAVE of Colorado, to pay tribute to an extraordinary man, Vernon Parker, who is the kind of man that represents the backbone of the American way of life.

Vernon is first and foremost a husband to Sylvia, a father to Jim and Joe and a grandfather to Jennifer and Nicholas. He has been a teacher, an elementary and junior high school principal and an outstanding civic leader. But it was as the school superintendent in Briggsdale, Colorado, that our life paths intersected. There were eleven children in my third grade class. The entire school system, kindergarten through twelfth grade, had only one

hundred and two students. In that idyllic setting, Vernon Parker made the third grade a special place of learning for me. As I look back upon those years, it is easy to recognize that Vernon Parker planted more than just a garden we could always find him tending. He planted hopes and dreams into the minds and hearts of the children of Briggsdale, Colorado.

As I reflect on the impact that educators have on the lives of their students, I think not only of scholastic standards but of their ability to instill the invaluable desire to learn—to reach for something greater than ourselves. For many years, as a teacher, a principal and school superintendent, Vernon Parker touched literally all of the lives of the children in the small town of Briggsdale. That is quite an honorable legacy in itself.

Yet we also as Americans owe a debt of gratitude to this man for his service to our country in the Korean War where his efforts as a member of the "Wolfpack," a special unit which aided friendly North Koreans, helped save American lives. He served from 1949 until 1953. He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, and during one battle he used a bazooka to destroy a Communist North Korean tank. Also in that battle, he was wounded by a mortar shell and was awarded the Purple Heart.

When Vernon retired from teaching and then oversight of the school system, he opened and ran a small business. He was a member of the Lions Club and the V.F.W., a Boy Scout leader and a volunteer fireman.

Vernon Parker has dedicated his life to public service and most importantly to children. I am greatly privileged to count myself among those children whose lives he touched and encouraged, motivated and disciplined on my childhood journey to that better day in life.

May God Bless our educators, may God bless our veterans, may God bless America and may God bless Vernon Parker!

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF JOHN  
C. "JAY" MAGIN

**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2005*

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas John C. "Jay" Magin was born March 20, 1937, in Port Jefferson, New York, who as a toddler traveled with his family as his father, a radio engineer for the Civil Aeronautics Administration, worked to establish landing control towers at airports during World War II;

Whereas the Magin family settled in Kansas City, Missouri in 1942, and moved to Lynbrook, New York in 1947;

Whereas Jay Magin graduated in 1955 from Bishop Laughlin Memorial High School in Brooklyn, New York, where he had been active in the Army's JROTC program;

Whereas Jay Magin attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, went to work for Grumman Corporation in the late 1950s, and spent a long career working in avionics support before retiring in 1989 and then moving to Hawaii;

Whereas Jay Magin was a member of the Kailua Elks Lodge 2230, an instructor in Lessons in Firearms Education (L.I.F.E.), a mem-

ber of the Hawaii Rifle Association, a member of the Battleship Missouri Amateur Radio Club, and a longtime active member of the MG Car Club of Long Island;

Whereas Jay Magin was also active in the American Red Cross' Human Animal Bond program at Tripler Army Medical Center and a member of Calvary By the Sea Lutheran Church in Aina Haina;

Whereas Jay Magin and his wife Judy, longtime residents of Huntington, New York, were married for 43 years and had two children: Janis, an editor with The Associated Press in Honolulu, and John, a Mac Genius with Apple Computer in New York City;

Whereas Jay Magin is survived by his wife, Judy; daughter Janis of Honolulu, Hawaii; son John and daughter-in-law Marianne of Huntington Station, New York; a brother, James O. Magin of Freeport, New York; a sister, Mary Ann Potito of Selden, New York; several nieces and nephews; and his beloved pets Willem and Ekhai: Now therefore be it

*Resolved*, in the U.S. House of Representatives, that Congresswoman DIANE E. WATSON,

(1) Mourns the passing of Jay Magin;

(2) Recognizes Jay Magin's legacy of charitable service, professional work ethic, bountiful kindness, and soft spoken manner; and

(3) Fondly remembers Jay Magin's easy laughter, charm, and the fact that he never uttered a harsh word about others.

HONORING DR. ROBERT H.  
BARTLETT

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the accomplishments of Dr. Robert H. Bartlett of the University of Michigan Medical Center. On Thursday, June 23, family and friends, including many of Dr. Bartlett's former patients, will gather to recognize his life and legacy.

Renowned and respected for his roles as Professor of General and Thoracic Surgery at U-M Medical Center, Dr. Robert Bartlett is celebrated around the world for his pioneering work in the development of extra corporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO. ECMO, a technique that has paved new roads in the treatment of infant pulmonary distress, has saved the lives of more than 5,000 infants in the past two decades, and has been successfully applied to children and adults with reversible heart or lung failure.

After completing his residency in Boston and serving as an instructor at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Bartlett became Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of California-Irvine. His first groundbreaking use of ECMO on an infant came in 1975, with dozens more successful cases spanning the next 5 years. From there, Dr. Bartlett moved the ECMO program to Ann Arbor, MI, the city of his birth. Within the first 5 years at U-M Medical Center, ECMO evolved from an experimental procedure to the standard practice of 18 medical facilities nationwide.

In addition to his work with ECMO, Dr. Bartlett has conducted research designed to advance lung transplantation, and is one of the State's leading authorities on the Koch Pouch

procedure for ostomy patients. His peers have recognized him on many occasions, including the 1989 Galens Medical Society Silver Shovel Award for Outstanding Clinical Teacher. When not teaching, researching, or lecturing, Dr. Bartlett can be found as a member of the Life Science Orchestra and the Ann Arbor Civic Orchestra.

Mr. Speaker, for decades, Dr. Robert Bartlett has selflessly worked to enhance and improve the quality of life for not only his patients, but for all those he has come across. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating him on his career, and wishing him the very best in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 16 and Friday, June 17, 2004, I was not present for votes because I was testifying before a Base Closure and Realignment Commission hearing in Portland. Had I been present for the following votes, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 270: I would have voted "aye" on the King (NY) Amendment to deny immunity to any U.N. Official who is under investigation or charged with a criminal offense because a person should not avoid investigation for a serious criminal offense because they are a United Nations employee.

Rollcall Vote 271: I would have voted "aye" on the Poe Amendment requiring OMB to submit a report on U.S. contributions to the U.N. because it would improve the ability of Congress to carry out its oversight responsibility.

Rollcall Vote 272: I would have voted "aye" on the Cantor Amendment to deny Iran nuclear materials and assistance because I am greatly concerned about Iran's efforts to develop nuclear weapons and support international efforts to prevent that.

Rollcall Vote 273: I would have voted "no" on tabling the Nadler Resolution because I believe Congress needs to provide stronger oversight in a bipartisan fashion and take a serious look at the PATRIOT Act.

Rollcall Vote 274: I would have voted "aye" on the Royce Amendment prohibiting the elimination of single-country human rights resolutions because, while I oppose mandatory withholding of dues, the U.N. needs to be a credible voice for human rights and I believe that this requirement is achievable.

Rollcall Vote 275: I would have voted "no" on the Fortenberry Amendment to ensure the formal adoption and implementation of mechanisms to: (1) Suspend the membership of a Member State if it is engaged or complicit in acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity; (2) impose an arms and trade embargo, travel restrictions and asset freeze upon groups or individuals responsible for such acts; (3) deploy a U.N. peacekeeping operation from an international or regional organization; (4) deploy monitors from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to the area where such acts are occurring; and (5) authorize the establishment of an international commission of inquiry into such acts as part of the certification and withholding process because,