

perspective. This is an institutional responsibility for the House of Representatives. But it is also a personal responsibility for each of us as representatives of our constituents. The sacrifices made by our military and civilian personnel serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, those made by Coalition personnel, and those made by Iraqis themselves only further reinforce the need to elevate our discussion on the merits of and challenges associated with what remains of the mission in Iraq.

I believe an honest and open exchange of views on the substance of what our country and our allies seek to achieve in Iraq is needed. This legislation would provide us the information we need to make better informed decisions on policy with regard to Iraq.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF CHESTER AND
IRENE BROZEK

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to pay tribute to Chester and Irene Brozek of Three Rivers, Massachusetts, upon the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

It was June 16, 1956, that Chester and Irene wed at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Three Rivers, Massachusetts. They have lived their lives together in that small town, attended the same schools—in the same class—and raised four sons and a daughter; Steven, Jim, David, Carolyn and Michael.

Chester, or Zab, worked at the Monsanto Company in Indian Orchard for more than 30 years. Irene worked for the Town of Palmer in the Tax Collector's Office, becoming the tax collector and retiring from that position.

On Saturday, June 24th Chester and Irene will return to Saints Peter and Paul Church to celebrate with their children, their 12 grandchildren, relatives and friends this momentous occasion. I congratulate them and wish them health, best wishes and happiness in their years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GIBRAN
BAYDOUN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gibran Baydoun for winning the 2006 National Endowment for the Arts Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Championship.

Gibran Baydoun attends Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nevada and recently won the Nevada State Finals for the National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Out Loud Contest held in Carson City. Created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, this program encourages high school students to memorize and perform great poems. Poetry Out Loud invites the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the English class. This exciting new program helps students master public

speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

Mr. Speaker, having met and listened to Gibran Baydoun, I am proud to honor him for his success at the Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Championship. Gibran's successful memorization and performance of great poems at the Nevada State Finals is a note worthy achievement.

ANSWERED PRAYERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the costs of Hurricane Katrina and Rita are far more than dollar amounts. For days, thousands of people fought for survival among the rising flood waters, lack of food and water, and outlaws victimizing the weak and helpless. In an attempt to lead the smallest victims of the hurricanes to safety, desperate, yet well-meaning parents sent their children with family and evacuation workers fleeing for safety. Their hope was to reunite after the storm; however, full panic soon engulfed Louisiana and Texas. Many parents found it impossible to locate these children once the storms had passed. Terrified parents made heart wrenching pleas to anyone who would listen. They spent countless hours praying for news of their kids.

Mr. Speaker, one organization heard their prayers and responded with the will and manpower to find these children. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children would undertake the tremendous task of locating 5,172 missing children. Mr. Speaker, after the winds stopped and the flood waters receded, all 5,172 children were found. It was only through the unwavering and relentless dedication that these children were found, and returned to the safe arms of their parents. I now pay tribute to those tireless children crusaders.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMEC, was established in 1984 by John and Reve Walsh in response to the kidnapping and disappearance of their son, Adam, in 1981. The center makes it their mission to locate, and successfully bring home, missing children across the United States. When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit Louisiana and Texas, the U.S. Department of Justice requested NCMEC's help in locating the displaced children of the hurricanes' victims. NCMEC responded with lightning speed, establishing a Katrina Missing Persons Hotline, with 30 telephones and 160 highly trained Project ALERT and Project ADAM volunteers to man the hotlines. Over the next few days, they would report thousands of missing child sightings.

These child crusaders spent long days and nights looking throughout America for these missing children. Photographs were used to help identify these children. The center tracked down leads, handled phone calls, and in the end, reunited families. They did not perform these tasks all on their own, however. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service, USPS, American Airlines, and thousands of nameless, silent volunteers aided the NCMEC in the successful recovery of all 5,172 missing children.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service responded to the prayers for help much like the NCMEC. These highly dedicated lawmen and women used the U.S. Postal Service's change of address information system to reunite these families. Safety precautions were taken by the USPS to ensure no misuse of the information system occurred. Members of the highly trained Project ALERT and Project ADAM teams, as well as the NCMEC case analysts, worked in cooperation with the special Hurricanes Katrina and Rita change of address operation in Tennessee, reunited children with parents. American Airlines became the angels in the sky for the NCMEC, donating numerous airline tickets, which successfully led to 89 children being brought home safe.

I was present when First Lady Laura Bush held a reception on Monday, June 12, at the White House to show appreciation to all those wonderful people. She invited these heroes to join her, along with six Members of Congress, and several of the reunited families. Everyone extended heart-felt gratitude for the tireless efforts achieved by these individuals. Rebecca Gonzales, wife of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and John and Reve Walsh were present as well. The First Lady praised the collaborative efforts of these organizations and individuals, expressing her gratitude for the heroes who relentlessly crusaded for the most helpless victims of the hurricanes—the children.

It is my honor to pay tribute to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, as well as the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, American Airlines, and thousands of volunteers for answering the prayers of the despondent hurricane parents. Today, 5,172 children have been led back to their families, another example of Americans helping Americans when the tidewaters of trouble have risen.

WE THE PEOPLE ALABAMA CLASS
PLACES FOURTH AT NATIONAL
COMPETITION ON THE CONSTITU-
TION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, from April 29–May 1, 2006, approximately 1,200 students from across the country participated in the national finals competition of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. I am pleased to announce that Vestavia Hills High School from Birmingham, Alabama placed fourth in the competition. The We the People program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

The We the People national finals is a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which the students "testify" before a panel of judges on constitutional topics. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Among the questions students