

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY LEICH

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Kimberly Leich of the Bronx, New York. I wish to recognize Kimberly for her Science Fiction/Fantasy, Gold Award win in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2006 contest, sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance was established to promote artistic development and expression in middle and high school students throughout the Nation in cooperation with schools. This year's competition recognized the work of over 1,400 students and invited award recipients to a workshop hosted in New York designed to introduce students to the professional world of art.

Mr. Speaker, I join to wish Kimberly best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.

IN HONOR OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary, Abraham Lincoln Post Thirteen, and to celebrate the commitment of this dedicated group of patriotic women to charity for our veterans and Nation.

The Abraham Lincoln Post Thirteen is the oldest chapter in the State of Ohio, and has maintained their dedication to honoring and supporting veterans throughout the years. The group ensures that American veterans receive the benefits and support they deserve for representing our great Nation. The women welcome new veterans from current wars, as well as bring much needed light into the lives of senior veterans. These women make regular visits to veteran's wards of a local hospital to take the Nation's former defenders to breakfast and religious services. In recent years, the Ladies Auxiliary's great work has raised enough money to dedicate a stone in the Western Reserve National Cemetery. This stone is a noble commemorative monument to the deceased veterans of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, as well as the women of the Ladies' Auxiliary who have loyally supported all the servicemen and women of the United States Armed Services.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing the wonderful work and dedication of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans on this momentous anniversary. The chapter members are proud of their Polish heritage, culture, and we share in their 75 years of accomplishments. I am confident that the Polish Legion of American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary will continue their commitment to work for the veterans and country well in to the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF NIKA MAPLES THE 2007 TEXAS SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nika Maples for being recognized as the 2007 Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year. She is an English teacher at Fossil Ridge High School in the Keller Independent School District in Fort Worth, Texas.

After suffering a stroke at the young age of 20, Nika has dedicated her life to making a difference in the lives of others. She began by teaching illiterate adults how to read and write. Nika has volunteered abroad in Japan, Thailand, and Germany to teach English as a Second Language.

As a 10th grade English teacher, Nika gives her students the confidence to reach their fullest potential. Her unique life experiences have encouraged an enthusiasm for teaching, and reaffirmed her commitment to make learning come alive in the classroom. Nika demonstrates how students should embrace life and live a life of abundance every day. She was also honored as the Keller I.S.D. Secondary Teacher of the Year for the 2005–2006 school year.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent such a dedicated and passionate teacher in the 26th District of Texas. Nika Maples serves as a role model not only for her students, but for all teachers around the Nation who share her devotion to helping others.

HONORING MR. JERRY TIDWELL OF GRANBURY, TEXAS FOR HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. Jerry Tidwell of Granbury, Texas for his recent election as president of the National Newspaper Association (NNA).

Whether it is serving as the publisher of the Hood County News or president of NNA, Mr. Tidwell's 36 years of dedicated service to the newspaper business and the local community are proof of the positive impact one person can have on others.

As a humble man whose actions speak louder than words, Jerry Tidwell is the kind of person that sets an inspiring example for us all to follow. He doesn't enjoy the attention much, but let me add my voice to the chorus of those who respect his steady leadership. Put simply, Jerry Tidwell is the very best Texas has to offer and it is an honor to represent him in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we need more leaders like Jerry Tidwell in our midst that truly make a difference in their community, state, and country. At this time, I ask Members to join me in offering our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for continued success to a great newspaper-

man and friend—Mr. Jerry Tidwell of Granbury, Texas.

We wish him well and hope that he can enjoy this time with fellow colleagues, family, and friends.

He has earned it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay, I was unable to record my rollcall votes 517 through 519. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on 517 and 518 and "no" on 519.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF HONDA MANUFACTURING OF ALABAMA IN LINCOLN, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the hard working people of Honda Manufacturing of Alabama in Lincoln, Alabama, who are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the opening of their Lincoln plant on November 14, 2006.

In 2001, the Honda Motor Company chose Lincoln as the site of their new plant. Over the past five years Honda Manufacturing of Alabama has grown from an original capital investment of \$400 million and employment of 2,000 associates to the current 4,500 associates and over \$1.2 billion in capital investment today.

Honda has helped transform Talladega County's economy, as well bring a positive impact on local school and community philanthropic activities.

As further testament to the hard working Alabamians employed at Honda, on November 3rd the plant produced its millionth vehicle. The celebration of that milestone included a small ceremony at the plant involving associates to mark the special occasion.

I salute the people of Honda Manufacturing of Alabama for reaching these important milestones, and congratulate the entire company on their plant's fifth anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CITY OF MILTON, GEORGIA

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the mayor, city council and citizens of the newly created city of Milton in Georgia. In accordance with a bill passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed by Governor Sonny Perdue, the community of Milton will be

officially incorporated as a city in December 2006.

What a wonderful and gratifying time this is for the people of Milton. They worked tirelessly to make this day a reality and have chosen to honor Mr. Joe Lockwood as the first mayor of their new city.

Milton is a pastoral, involved and respectful community. They have seized the opportunity to have a direct impact on their future. This achievement also comes with many new responsibilities. I am confident that the citizens will successfully embrace these new challenges. It is my honor to represent this new Georgia municipality.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the privilege of bringing the recognition of this House of Representatives as we congratulate the people of Milton, Georgia and wish them the very best during this exciting transition.

THE AMISH SCHOOL SHOOTING OF THE LITTLE GIRLS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, in the 16th Century, during the period of religious reformation in Europe, the Mennonite faith was formed. Due to problems within the religion, a man named Jacob Amman separated himself, and a group of followers, from the Mennonite faith and established the Amish. Facing religious persecution for their beliefs, the Amish fled Europe in the 18th Century. They came to settle in America, primarily in the rich farmlands of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana.

During the last 300 years, the Amish have maintained a peaceful existence among these farmlands, holding steadfast onto their beliefs of old, and not conforming to modern-day society. They live a simplistic life without the everyday modern conveniences we have all become accustomed to. They do not use electricity, telephones, computers, or television, and they do not own automobiles. The Amish are governed by a set of unwritten rules known as the "Ordnung." These rules establish the protocol and acceptable behavior for an Amish community and vary in each community. For example, the Ordnung in a particular community may forbid ever deviating from conservative, dark, heavy forms of clothes, even during the summer months, whereas other communities Ordnungs may relax the dress code during the summer heat. In general, the Amish avoid anything that would be considered "hochmut," meaning proud or arrogant, and choose to live their lives in "demut," humility, and "gelassenheit," submission.

The most important part of an Amish community is the family. Each family has an average of seven children. While it is considered "God's Will" to how many children one family will have, it is also vital that there be enough children to help run the family farm. Amish children attend school, usually in a one-room school house run by the Amish community. Most Amish children do not receive anything higher than an 8th grade education. The belief is that the education level is sufficient enough to adapt the children into their future adult Amish life.

Amish communities, although surrounded by modern society, are generally untouched by

violence plaguing today's world. They do not read newspapers, which depict the crimes of modern society. They do not own televisions, which run continual news coverage of random acts of violence occurring throughout modern society. Their lives could be deemed innocent and idealistic, sheltered to the evils of society.

All that changed on Monday, October 2, 2006. On this warm, sunny, fall Pennsylvania day, Charles Carl Roberts IV came home from his night shift as a milk delivery man, walked his children to school, and kissed them goodbye. He went home and wrote four notes: one to his wife and one to each of his three children. Arming himself with a handgun, a shotgun, a rifle, and more than 600 rounds of ammunition, Roberts drove to the quiet Amish community of Nickel Mines.

Mr. Speaker, Roberts, with malice aforethought, and a heart fatally bent on mischief, calmly walked into that one room Amish schoolhouse and took it, and the children, hostage. Roberts ordered all of the Amish boys and the adults from the room. He then tied up 10 little girls, as they stood against the chalkboard. For the next hour, these little girls were trapped with this sadistic monster, who had vile intentions for their innocence.

It is unclear what triggered Roberts to start shooting after the initial hour. Perhaps it was the police presence, perhaps he was haunted by past sins, or perhaps he was just evil. Regardless of his reason, Roberts opened fire on these 10 little girls, at point blank range, before turning the gun on himself. When the smoke had cleared, Anna Mae Stoltzfus, Marian Fisher, Naomi Rose Ebersol, and sisters, Mary Liz and Lena Miller, had not survived Roberts' violent rampage. Young girls—young victims.

Anna Mae, Marian, Naomi Rose, Mary Liz, and Lena had their whole lives ahead of them. Lives full of love, family, and new beginnings as they matured into adulthood. Lives that were brutally, viciously, and tragically cut short by Charles Carl Roberts IV, a man too coward to take just his own life, so he took 5 little girls with him. The Good Book says that it is better for a person to be thrown into the sea than to harm a child.

In the days that followed Roberts' violent rampage, questions immediately arose to why a hard working husband and father would commit such a crime against the innocent. In a note written to his wife moments before he entered the school, Roberts stated several reasons for the school siege: his anger at God for the death of his infant daughter in 1997, his haunted memories of molesting two child female relatives 20 years previously, and his thoughts of molesting children again. So to quell that anger and the demons within, he took his life. Too bad he took the lives of little girls as well.

The devastation which befell the Amish community of Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania could have destroyed a community unaccustomed to such violence. Yet, the Amish were determined to overcome this unimaginable tragedy. In acts of tremendous kindness, generosity, and forgiveness, the Amish community not only tended to the families of the slain little girls, but to the killer's family as well. Within hours of the attack, members of the Amish community spoke out about the killings, stating that in the midst of this tragedy, they forgave Roberts. They also visited his wife and children to offer comfort and aid. Perhaps, in an

even greater act of mercy, the Amish asked that a portion of the funds collected for the families of these girls, be donated to the Roberts family. Mr. Speaker, it is true generosity and mercy to comfort and care for the family of the evil who brutally murdered five children in your community.

Sadly, the tragedy which occurred in a little Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania is not isolated. Barely a week before, in September, an armed gunman took six female students hostage in Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Colorado. During those horrific hours held prisoner inside a classroom, Duane Morrison subjected the girls to brutal sexual assaults. As police proceeded to enter the classroom, Morrison executed a 16 year old student and then the criminal took his own life. The Nickel Mines tragedy 5 days later was eerily reminiscent of the devastation which took place at Platte Canyon High School. The Platte Canyon tragedy was reminiscent of the Columbine Massacre, which had taken place in Colorado 7 years earlier.

As a father of 4, 3 of whom are girls, and a grandfather of 5, 3 of whom are girls as well, the death of a child is a parent's worst fear. No parent should experience such a heartbreaking loss. The worse thing that can happen to a parent is to lose a child before their time. It is the worse thing that can happen to a community; and it is the worse thing that can happen to a nation.

These school tragedies reinforce the need for adequate school safety and security throughout this country. A school no longer exists as a safe haven for children, but rather has become a violent battleground that demands our intercession. A school is an environment of learning and enrichment, not fear and brutality. We must strive to do everything within our ability to ensure the safety and well-being of our most precious commodity—our children. We need to strive to protect schools from outside intruders and inside rampages. School safety must be a priority—without it, children have very little places left to feel safe.

That's Just the Way It Is.

TRIBUTE TO ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Essex National Heritage Area and to congratulate the Essex National Heritage Commission on their outstanding work.

I can still remember when Tom Leonard came down to Congress in September of 1995 to testify in support of legislation that Senator KENNEDY and I had filed to create the Essex National Heritage Area.

One of the most poignant moments in Tom's testimony was when he laid out his vision for a true public private partnership to preserve the rich history of Essex County.

During his testimony Tom said, "Let me stress this point about cooperation. The legislation that is before you today anticipates a true partnership between the private and public sectors. We are not seeking federal handouts and controls."