

join me in celebrating their fifth anniversary, in hopes of many more years of continued success.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. According to the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, approximately one in five of the children and adolescents in this country will experience the signs and symptoms of a mental health problem this year.

Today, local children's mental health initiatives across the nation will celebrate the strides they have made with children who are experiencing serious emotional and behavioral problems. I congratulate the Harris County Systems of Hope in Houston, Texas, which has been successful in using a family-driven approach to help emotionally disturbed youth become productive, responsible citizens and thrive in their communities, rather than getting caught in the juvenile justice system.

I urge my colleagues to join in celebrating National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day and supporting their local children's mental health initiatives.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT WAPLES

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, dedicated and well-prepared first responders are one of the greatest assets to a community during an emergency. Today, I am honored to recognize Mr. Robert Waples of Rural/Metro Ambulance in Aurora, Colorado. Mr. Waples has been named as a Star of Life Award recipient by the American Ambulance Association for his exceptional service and commitment to the Colorado community.

Mr. Waples has been a member of EMS for the past 30 years, over which time he has sought to improve the standard of medical transportation for the Aurora region. His hard work and efforts are shining examples of leadership and vision, helping the ambulance community better respond to the public.

The Star of Life Award is given to outstanding individuals nationwide within the ambulance service field who have shown above-and-beyond dedication to their profession and society. Recipients are medics, dispatchers, and EMS personnel who have promoted the success of pre-hospital care and the effectiveness of medical transportation. This May, the American Ambulance Association will honor these men and women in Washington D.C., recognizing their heroic, life-saving achievements and contributions to their local communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Waples for this honor. May he

continue to be an inspiration to his organization as well as to the medical transportation community as a whole.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2007

Daniel Lerma, Robert F. Kennedy Charter High School; Jennifer Roberts, Mountainair High School; Jennifer Johnston, Del Norte High School; James H. Caughren, Sandia Preparatory School; Arthur Chacon, Manzano High School; Siobhan Degnan, Southwest Secondary Learning Center; Abigail Martinez, South Valley Academy; Molly Nelson, Albuquerque Academy; Ashley Marie Maturino, Evangel Christian Academy; Ruby Trujillo, Rio Grande High School; Nicholas A. Maestas, Highland High School; David Aaron Parks, Cibola High School; Kelsey Byrne, Moriarty High School; Mathew Garcia, West Mesa High School; Eric Layer, Sandia High School; and Austin Baker, Temple Baptist Academy.

Angelica Aguilar, Los Puentes Charter School; Amanda Fernandez May, St. Pius X High School; Ashley Hope Darnell, Bernalillo High School; Sara Beth Dunham, Victory Christian School; Geri Lucia Lia, Menaul School; Corina Franco, New Futures School; Kelly Walker, Bosque School; Kelly D. Clingenpeel, Sierra Alternative High School; Audrey Wofford, Hope Christian School; Desiree J. Sandoval, Cesar Chavez Community School; Katie Gilliam, La Cueva High School; James C. Bohnhoff, El Dorado High School; Elizabeth McConaghy, Los Lunas High School; Charles Andres Padilla, East Mountain High School; and Stacy Daniels, Valley High School.

TRIBUTE TO VAL MCCOMIE, FORMER AMBASSADOR OF BARBADOS AND FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ambassador Val McComie, of Barbados, a consummate professional and diplomat who established a high bar for his

nation in the achievements of his illustrious career. I place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a tribute by Ambassador Michael King to Val McComie.

Today, I had the honor and privilege to speak at the funeral service for Ambassador Val McComie. My heart was warmed to see the outpouring of love by his family members and friends who attended the service to pay their final respects to a great man. It was obvious that he touched the lives of many with his wisdom, knowledge, and commitment to public service. He will be missed by many, but he leaves a legacy that will continue to inspire all those who knew him.

I was very encouraged by the tribute to Ambassador Val McComie by Ambassador Michael King, which was read at the funeral service today. I will reflect on the tribute when I think of my friend and his contribution to my life, democracy, and the people of the Caribbean.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONOURABLE VALERIE T. MCCOMIE, C.H.B.

The Honourable Valerie Theodore McComie, C.H.B. was a quintessential Caribbean man. His whole life was spent teaching his students, his colleagues and interlocutors—and anybody with a keen ear—about the dynamics of Caribbean politics and society.

His strong love and appreciation for the Inter-American System played a major role in convincing the Government of Barbados to join the Organisation of American States in 1967 and to service the Permanent Mission with quality staff with the necessary professional and linguistic skills to interact effectively with their colleagues from the rest of the Hemisphere.

Val mentored anyone who was willing to listen to his wise advice and to benefit from his institutional memory. His knowledge of Latin America and the key decision-makers was incredible and one could only marvel at his ability to keep abreast of the rapid changes of government during a period when the word "democracy" was not often part of the lexicon of the Region.

He was a stickler for detail and thorough preparation and he always felt that all diplomats should not take the floor to speak unless they had full access to facts and knowledge about the subject. He demanded and expected a certain level of excellence in the area of diplomatic representation.

As Assistant Secretary General from 1980-1990 Val was a major source of advice to several CARICOM leaders on matters related to the Inter-American System. He relished the role like a kid in a candy store. Sometimes his frankness was not appreciated but he never wavered from his strong views.

I had the privilege to be in La Paz in October 1979 when he created history by winning a very close election to the post of Assistant Secretary General. It was not an easy task for him and the delegation of Barbados but there was no doubt that the esteem with which he was held in the Hemisphere was the primary reason for his success. His re-election by acclamation in Brazilia in 1984 bought similar joy to us.

Val loved sports, especially cricket and football. He always reminded me that he was close to selection for the Barbados Cricket Team. I can also recall the joy he felt when he returned from the 1982 Football World Cup in Spain and the attention he paid to subsequent events.

He followed in death by 100 days, his good friend, the Honourable Oliver Jackman, C.H.B., who also had the great honour of serving as Ambassador of Barbados to the

United States of America and the Organization of American States. They were among the first persons selected to represent Barbados immediately following the granting of Independence in November 1966. All of you will agree that Barbados, the Caribbean and the Inter-American System are better off from their leadership and commitment to improving the quality of life and the promotion of justice for all citizens of the Hemisphere.

On behalf of the Government and people of Barbados I wish to express our sincerest expression of sympathy to his wife, Elia and daughter, Gail and the rest of the family.

I wish to end by reading the first verse of the poem "Los Heraldos Negros" (Black Messengers) by the great Peruvian, Cesar Vallejo:

"Hay golpes en la vida, tan fuertes . . . Yo no sé!

Golpes como del odio de Dios; como si ante ellos, la resaca de todo lo sufrido se empozara en el alma . . . Yo no sé!

In English:

There are in life such hard blows . . . I don't know!

Blows seemingly from God's wrath; as if before them

The undertow of all our sufferings is embedded in our souls . . .

I don't know!

May he rest in peace!

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING STIMULATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1868) to authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1868, the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act, which will reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, for the next 3 years.

H.R. 1868 is the first reauthorization of NIST since 1991. Authorizing \$2.5 billion over 3 years, this bill would increase funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program, which keeps jobs in the United States; creates the Technology Innovation Program, which allows universities partnering with businesses to apply for funding through NIST and speed research in high-risk, high-reward technologies in areas of critical national needs; continue funding NIST on a 10-year path to doubling; and provide necessary construction funding for laboratory upgrades.

Founded in 1901 under the National Bureau of Standards Act, NIST has been in the forefront of innovative technology in areas of public safety, industrial competitiveness and economic growth through standards and measurements. Its mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

NIST works tirelessly with industry, universities, and other government agencies to address technological innovations that will fundamentally change products and services available in the 21st century. NIST is renowned for working on cutting edge technology. Innovations from this research will ultimately impact our quality of life.

Also supported in this reauthorization would be the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, founded by NIST and given by the President of the United States. The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recognizes businesses for their standard of performance excellence in their business practices. Minnesota has been the recipient of three Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards in the past 10 years. Most recently in 2005, Sunny Fresh Foods, Incorporated won its second Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for its quality and leadership that continually focuses people and business processes on improving product and services to its customers and stakeholders.

NIST sits at the nexus of science and industry. NIST's unique role is to advance measurements and standards so that the next innovation can be realized and commercialized. In today's global economy, the ability of the United States to remain competitive relies increasingly on our ability to develop and commercialize innovative technologies. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1868 in order for National Institute of Standards and Technology to remain as the premier institute for measurements and standards in the world.

RECOGNIZING THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AS THE "2007 BEST PLACE TO WORK IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT" AND AS THE "BEST DIVERSITY COMPANY"

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize recent achievements of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC recently captured the top ranking among large Federal agencies in the "2007 Best Places To Work in the Federal Government" rankings announced Thursday, April 19, 2007 by the Partnership for Public Service and the American University Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation.

This recognition is a great honor for all of the men and women at the NRC. Agency employees are clearly committed to the mission of licensing and regulating the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promoting the common defense and security, and protecting the environment. As evidenced by this award, the NRC staff has the dedication and commitment that make the NRC a great place to work.

The NRC was also recently recognized as a "Best Diversity Company" by the readers of Diversity/Careers in Engineering and Information Technology. Reader survey results highlighted the NRC for the agency's strong support of women and minorities, attention to work/life balance, and commitment to supplier diversity.

These two awards highlight what we in the National Capital Region have known for a long time—the NRC is a top-notch employer. With its headquarters offices located in my district in Rockville, Maryland, I commend the NRC for its recent achievements and I applaud the agency's dedication to its employees while enabling the Nation to safely use radioactive materials for beneficial civilian purposes and ensuring that people and the environment are protected.

HONORING HARRY BELAFONTE FOR A LIFETIME OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to praise Harry Belafonte, legendary musician and world renowned entertainer, for a lifetime of activism for equality and human rights for people across the globe. His passion, sincerity, and empathy for those who are overlooked and underprivileged have inspired many to act and have brought about significant change in our society.

Harry Belafonte's courage to speak out against the war in Iraq, to support the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and to fight for an end of the AIDS epidemic is a mirror to his integrity and undying commitment to improving society. Amy Goodman reflects on his endless service in her article "Harry Belafonte, The Lion at 80" published by Carib News. Harry Belafonte is a true humanitarian for his lifetime of endless work for all.

[From the Carib News, Apr. 3, 2007]

HARRY BELAFONTE, THE LION AT 80

(By Amy Goodman)

Harry Belafonte just turned 80. The "King of Calypso" was the first person to have a million-selling album and the first African-American to win an Emmy, and is perhaps the most recognizable entertainer in the world. On Saturday, March 3, I attended his birthday party at a restaurant adjoining the New York Public Library.

The setting seemed very appropriate, as Belafonte himself is a living library of not only the civil rights movement but of liberation struggles around the world. In 1944, just before shipping out as a U.S. Navy sailor in World War II, he was banned from the Copacabana nightclub in New York. Ten years later, he headlined there. He knew Rosa Parks, Paul Robeson and Eleanor Roosevelt. He corresponded with the imprisoned Nelson Mandela when the U.S. government considered the South African leader a terrorist.

Belafonte was a close confidant of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He spoke daily with King. The FBI was listening. Taylor Branch, the award-winning author of a trilogy of books on King, was at Harry's party. Belafonte describes how Bunch's final book in the trilogy, "At Canaan's Edge," uncovered extensive FBI wiretaps of their conversations.

For fighting for the right to vote and to end segregation, Belafonte says: "We were looked upon as people who were insurgents, that we were doing things to betray our nation and the tranquility of our citizens. That engaged the FBI. Everything we talked about was tapped." The FBI even went to his house when he was away and frightened his