

U.S. military preparedness and our national security. Congress has every right, and in fact every obligation, to hold President Bush and Iraq's political leadership accountable for their lack of results and complete lack of urgency while U.S. troops patrol in the midst of an Iraqi civil war.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 2206 and I urge my colleagues—especially my Republican colleagues—to take this appropriate and tempered step towards protecting our troops while demanding political accountability from President Bush and his Iraqi counterparts.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA BERKOWITZ

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and pay tribute to an esteemed member of my community, Sylvia Berkowitz as she celebrates her 100th birthday on May 30th.

I know that her love and kindness have been an inspiration to her family and friends. Her dedication to her family—as a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and recently a great-great-grandmother—is to be revered.

Throughout the last century, Sylvia has not only dedicated her energies and remarkable abilities to her family but also to others. I applaud her work in volunteering for numerous charitable organizations including helping those struggling with Leukemia, Multiple Sclerosis and other incapacitating diseases.

On behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, it is my privilege to congratulate Sylvia Berkowitz on this momentous occasion. You are a true inspiration and a wonderful human being. I wish you continued success, good health, and happiness in the years ahead.

AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED
FOR LIFE COMMEMORATIVE
COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 634, the American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act. This bipartisan legislation commemorates those veterans who have sacrificed so much to secure our freedom by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in their honor.

The funding generated from the sale of these coins will be used to help build a memorial to disabled veterans on the grounds surrounding the U.S. Capitol. This memorial, which will sit within full view of the Capitol, will serve to remind us of those young men and women who put their lives on the line each day in defense of this great Nation.

Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit Walter Reed to meet some of the brave men and women that we seek to honor here

today. I will never forget the faces of those warriors who proved that they would stop at nothing to fulfill the mission that this Nation has laid before them.

Our military veterans have served honorably around the world, in many of the most hostile and dangerous conditions known to man. Whether it is in the fields of Europe, the jungles of Southeast Asia, or the deserts of the Middle East, the selfless actions of these men and women helps to preserve the liberty that we hold so dear.

These soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who voluntarily heeded the call to serve our Nation in combat, truly embody all that is great within our society. They have shown courage and valor, consistently performing with distinction on foreign battlefields. These honorable Americans have given us all that they have to offer. It is now time for us to show them how much we appreciate their great sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING KEELIN BROUGHAN
ON THE 2006 PRESIDENTIAL
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN
MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keelin Broughan on winning the 2006 Presidential Award of Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

Ms. Broughan is a kindergarten teacher at Paul Revere Elementary School in Chicago. I often say that we need to start teaching math and science to our children as early as possible, and it doesn't get much earlier than kindergarten.

Paul Revere Elementary is a Chicago Public School with a very long tradition in the community. Thanks to excellent teachers like Keelin Broughan, students from a variety of backgrounds are able to have access to an outstanding education.

This week, Ms. Broughan will be presented with her award and have an opportunity to meet the President of the United States and her fellow award winners from across the country.

Since 1983, over 3,700 teachers have received Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The effort and ability of these educators will help ensure that our children are ably prepared for the coming years.

Madam Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Keelin Broghan on her outstanding work in the classroom, and I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALIDA
DIETRICH BEGINA, ED.D.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend and out-

standing community member, Dr. Alida Dietrich Begina, who was taken from us all too soon in late April of this year after losing her battle with breast cancer. As a wife, mother, educator, administrator, colleague and friend, Alida gave so much of herself to others and has left an indelible mark on the lives of all of those she touched.

Alida's dedication to education—at every level—was unparalleled. She began her career as an English, Latin, and Spanish teacher in several school systems eventually working her way to administrative positions. She worked in both public school systems as well as alternative education systems, even spending 2 years as an Instructor in English as a Second Language at Indiana Central University in Nicosia, Cyprus. She would end her career as the Superintendent of Hamden Public Schools where she was respected and loved by students, faculty and community members alike. In the 12 years she served in this position, Alida worked diligently to provide Hamden's students with access to the best possible education on which to build their future success. She was a reflection of all that we hope our education leaders will be.

Through all of her efforts Alida became one of the most highly regarded administrators in the State. In addition to serving as the Superintendent for the Hamden Public School system, she served as an adjunct professor at both Sacred Heart University and Southern Connecticut State University, where she taught graduate courses for obtaining superintendents' certification as well as curriculum development and theories of learning for administrator certification. Alida was often looked to by professionals and public policy makers for input—the myriad of honors, awards, and commendations that she earned throughout her career are a testimony to her distinguished reputation as a leader in public education. Perhaps most telling was her selection as the only superintendent in Connecticut to design and write the revised version of the Connecticut Administrator Test that is used for certification of administrators. Indeed, I and my staff often called upon Alida's vast knowledge and experience when faced with challenging choices in public policy concerning education. The loss of her expertise and unique perspective on public education and its impact on our young people will certainly be missed by many.

One of her most invaluable contributions and lasting legacies is her work to establish the Hamden Education Foundation—a non-profit organization that, since its inception, has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars which has been used to fund innovative student programs and scholarships. In addition to several annual scholarships, funds are used for such programs as the purchase of library books and periodicals for all Hamden public schools as well as mini-grants aimed at encouraging teachers and other certified staff to implement exciting and often long-cherished ideas. The Foundation looks to the community to raise the funds it uses—creating a special bond between the community and its young people. I have no doubt that the Hamden Education Foundation and Alida's vision in which it was created will continue to enrich the lives and education of Hamden students for many years to come.

Dr. Alida Dietrich Begina will long be remembered for her many invaluable contributions to education, both locally and state-wide.