

School system. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Geoffrey Steffens for his service to our Nation and wishing him the best in a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 6, 2007, I could not be present for rollcall votes 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, and 439 because I was attending my daughter's high school graduation.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

"No" on rollcall 431, H. Res. 435—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 2446, Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 432, H.R. 1716—Green Energy Education Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 433, H.R. 632—To authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish monetary prizes for achievements in overcoming scientific and technical barriers associated with hydrogen energy;

"No" on rollcall 434, H.R. 964—Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 435, H.R. 2446—Kirk Amendment;

"No" on rollcall 436, H.R. 2446—Kucinich Amendment;

"Yes" on rollcall 437, H.R. 2446—Motion to Recommit with Instructions Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 438, H.R. 2446—Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"No" on rollcall 439, H.R. 2560—Human Cloning Prohibition Act.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF  
THE CENTER ON HALSTED

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the opening of the Center on Halsted, a new gay and lesbian community center at 3656 N. Halsted, in the heart of the northside of the Fifth District. This new facility will give the surrounding community a state of the art building for youth services, mental health services and community/cultural programming and more.

The Center on Halsted has actually served Chicago's gay and lesbian community for more than three decades. Unfortunately, though, they had to make do with temporary facilities for a number of years. Today, the community has a place to call home.

This grand opening has been a long time in coming, with planning dating back to 2001. I am proud to have worked closely with the leadership at the Center on Halsted, Mayor Daley, Alderman Tunney, and many other local leaders to make the dream of a new center a reality.

The Center on Halsted focuses their programming into three areas: mental health,

youth and community outreach, and cultural programming. One of the center's goals is to provide role models for young members of the gay and lesbian community.

The three-story facility is a proud home for a proud community, and the end product is almost as remarkable as the hard work of all the people who made it happen. The roof deck, computer lab, theater facilities, Whole Foods, café, and more will make the Center on Halsted a welcoming location for its neighbors and an engine for economic development on the northside of Chicago.

Madam Speaker, I am thrilled that the Center on Halsted has opened its doors. I want to congratulate everyone involved on a job well done, and I know the center will be an important part of Chicago for a long time to come.

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ALBERT  
J. SIMONE

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2007*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of a distinguished academic who I am privileged to call my friend, Dr. Albert J. Simone. Dr. Simone has served as the president of Rochester Institute of Technology since September 1, 1992, and during that time I have had the pleasure of working with him as he advanced the university's reputation as a leading career-oriented institution. He is retiring his post this year, and his vision and leadership will be sorely missed.

Before taking the helm at RIT, Dr. Simone served as president of the University of Hawaii System and chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He also taught at several well-respected institutions for higher education, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, University of Cincinnati, and the University of Hawaii. But his achievements go far beyond administration and instruction.

Dr. Simone has authored countless publications, including books and journal articles on the application of mathematics, statistics, and computers to economics and business. He is a founding editor of *Decision Sciences* and is a past president and fellow of the Institute of Decision Sciences. And, although he is retiring, he will continue to make contributions to academia as he is currently in the process of collecting data for a book he will be writing on higher education.

A true trailblazer, Dr. Simone was the first American university president to officially visit North Korea, Vietnam, and Vladivostok when these regions were closed to the United States except for cultural and educational exchange. He oversaw the launch of three Ph.D. programs at RIT in the areas of microsystems engineering, computing and information sciences, and color science. And, under his stewardship, six bachelor's degree programs have been added to the university's offerings, including programs in information technology, software engineering, chemistry and polymer chemistry, biochemistry, advertising and public relations, and new media publishing. These

new programs represent the university's understanding of the needs of the community outside of it, and help distinguish the city of Rochester as a center for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Simone led RIT's largest capital campaign, raising \$310 million which enabled the university to add over 210 new scholarships, name three colleges, add seven new endowed professorships, build nine new campus facilities, add \$90 million in new applied research initiatives, and add \$34 to the RIT endowment. This capital campaign enhanced RIT's reputation, made college education more accessible for more students, and gave students and faculty better resources to pursue their academic endeavors.

Thanks to Dr. Simone and the programs he has cultivated at RIT, the university has become a strong partner in regional economic development efforts. His endeavors have consistently reflected his belief that the "R" in RIT means something." Aside from creating academic programs at the university to address the business needs of the Rochester and the surrounding region, Dr. Simone served as chairman of the board of the Greater Rochester Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the boards of the Rochester Business Alliance, the Center for Government Research, and the Finger Lakes Partnership for the WIRED initiative. His involvement in these and countless other community organizations has benefited not only the organizations themselves, but also the university and its students by establishing important networking opportunities and using the knowledge from those relationships to inform the direction of the university.

Dr. Simone has been recognized by several organizations throughout western New York and the Nation for his outstanding leadership and community involvement. He was the recipient of the Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award from Partners for Livable Communities—2006, the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County Racial Justice Award—2005, the Rochester International Council International Citizen Award—2004, the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals President's Award—2001, and the Rochester Business Alliance Civic Medal among many, many others.

RIT and the community surrounding it owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Simone, and I am honored today to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his service. His legacy will live on at RIT, and I look forward to seeing the university continue to flourish. I wish Dr. Simone and his wife Carolie, their four children, and five grandchildren the best during his retirement.

HONORING THE 32ND ANNUAL  
CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2007*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 32nd Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current week-