

lives, by raising the drinking age to 21 across the country.”

Now, there are some that are advocating—lowering the drinking age back to 18. These people are unfortunately choosing what is easy over what is right and what is effective.

It would be easy to allow 18 to 20 year olds to drink, but we would pay for it with lives. The Centers for Disease Control, CDC, looked at 49 high-quality, peer-reviewed studies of places that changed their drinking age and found conclusively that moving the drinking age up to 21 decreases alcohol-involved crash fatalities by 16 percent and lowering it increases fatalities by 10 percent.

New Zealand is a good example of this. In 1999, New Zealand lowered its drinking age from 20 to 18. Not only did the alcohol-involved crash rate increase among 18 and 19 year olds, but also among 15 to 17 year olds. It is absurd to think that this would not happen in the United States were we to take the easy path.

It would be easy to think that teaching young people to drink would increase responsible drinking habits, but what is easy isn't what is true. Most European countries with lower drinking ages have not only higher drinking rates, but higher binge drinking and intoxication rates. Several of these countries, like the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Canada, are considering increasing their drinking ages because the 21 minimum drinking age is so effective.

It would be easy to assume that 18 to 20 year olds could drink safely, but in truth, all underage drinking is unsafe drinking. Brain research shows us that the brain continues to develop into the early twenties. The part that controls reasoning and cognitive ability is the last to mature and thus the most vulnerable to damage. The part of the brain responsible for new memories is noticeably smaller in youth that abuse alcohol. Alcohol use in the teen years also is associated with decreased brain functioning, memory, movement, and attention, and these changes may be permanent.

These and many more reasons are why a host of experts, including the CDC, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, General Accounting Office, Institute of Medicine, Surgeon General, National Institute of Health, and more, support the 21 minimum drinking age.

It is necessary for us as legislators, parents, and responsible citizens to take the hard path and prevent our young people from accessing alcohol—adults facilitate, by selling, giving, providing, or allowing youth access to alcohol, almost all underage drinking. It is necessary to set limits, not open the liquor cabinets. And it is necessary for us as leaders to ignore those who think you can try the same experiment twice and get less fatal results.

And that's just the way it is.

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COMMEMORATING WORLD  
REFUGEE DAY 2007

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, since 2001, people across the globe have come together on June 20 to show their support for the millions of refugees throughout the world who

have fled their homes for fear of persecution, imprisonment or even murder. On this sixth anniversary of World Refugee Day, we make a solemn pledge to these courageous and resilient people that their plight has not gone unnoticed and they do not stand alone.

In April, I led a congressional delegation to Sudan and saw, first-hand, the effects of one of the worst refugee crises facing our world today. In Darfur, I saw mothers and fathers struggling to provide for their children's most basic needs—necessities we often take for granted, such as food, water, clothing and shelter. I saw people fighting to overcome years of physical and mental abuse so severe that they would rather wander the desert than remain in the torturous environment their homeland had become. And I saw things that made me wonder how the world could stand silent while suffering of this magnitude continued.

With more than 686,000 refugees, Sudan is now ranked as the third largest refugee crisis in the world, according to the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, falling behind Iraq, where sectarian violence has created 1.5 million refugees—1.2 million fled the country in 2006 alone—and Afghanistan with 2.1 million. And it comes as no surprise that Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan now also rank first, second and eighth, respectively, on the Foreign Policy Index on Failed States, which was released on Tuesday.

When people are forced to flee from their homes, they leave behind more than just material possessions; they often must trade their dignity, self-respect and hopes for the future for their very survival. And it is not just the refugees themselves that suffer. The instability and mortal dangers that create refugee crises threaten the safety and security of entire regions, if not the entire world.

On this World Refugee Day, I am proud to join with the defenders of human rights who are calling on each of us to not only acknowledge the tragedies suffered by refugees across the globe, but who are also challenging us to step up and do something about it.

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A TRIBUTE TO CHAMBERLAIN S.  
PETERSIDE, PH.D.

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Chamberlain S. Peterside, Ph.D. Chamberlain is the CEO and founder of the New Era Capital Corporation, a New York City-based financial services group. Chamberlain worked previously as a Certified Financial Manager with Merrill Lynch, Global Private Client Group and HSBC Bank in New York City, where he assisted high net-worth clients and institutional investors in developing strategies for managing their portfolio.

Chamberlain graduated with a Ph.D. in Finance and Economics from Friendship University in Moscow. He carries with him more than 15 years of diverse business development, management consulting and financial advisory experience from his work in Africa, Europe and the United States.

Upon graduation, Chamberlain began his career as a business consultant in his own

firm, Value Adding Consulting Group, Inc, with offices located in both Moscow and London. He advised domestic and foreign companies on the intricacies and modalities for expanding their operations in the new markets of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Chamberlain received the “40 Under 40” achievement award in June of 2001 from the Network Journal in New York for outstanding academic, professional and community service accomplishments. He has also served as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Finance and Business Management at ASA Institute of Business Management and Advanced Technology.

Currently, through New Era, Chamberlain is instrumental in developing and financing multi-million dollar telecommunication, hospitality, real estate, and oil and gas industries in Africa. He writes on many economic issues in regard to business development, and has appeared on the CNN program “In the Money,” where he discussed the need for a new approach in regard to economic reform efforts in Africa.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Chamberlain S. Peterside, Ph.D. for his countless academic and economic accomplishments. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Chamberlain S. Peterside.

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IN TRIBUTE TO GERALD WALLACE

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an artistic leader and playwright from the Fourth Congressional District, Gerald Wallace. Mr. Wallace was instrumental in diversifying and enriching Milwaukee's artistic offerings by interjecting the voice of Milwaukee's African American artistic community. A prolific playwright, Mr. Wallace created works that reflected the full range of African American experience in this country.

Mr. Wallace fulfilled his childhood dream when he founded the People's Theater. He created a 20-seat theater in a building located in the heart of the African American community through funds raised by providing evening studio performances in private homes. He expanded understanding of and appreciation for African American theater by both the actors and the audience with performances by People's Theater throughout the city and the State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Wallace provided opportunities and mentored anyone interested in performing or learning other aspects of theater operation. He trained novices in speaking, projection, stage movement, and taught them to explore the depths of their characters in order to present a realistic portrayal on stage. Mr. Wallace exposed Milwaukee to the rich traditions of African American theater with the appearance of legendary actress Claudia McNeil, who performed with the People's Theater in James Baldwin's classic play, *The Amen Corner*. Many theater actors and actresses from Milwaukee began acting or honed their skills at the People's Theater. In fact, the founder of Milwaukee's African American Children's Theater had her genesis at the People's Theater.