

TRIBUTE TO WARREN LODGE NO.
310 OF COLLEGEVILLE, PA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a local Mason's Lodge, the Warren Lodge No. 310 located in Collegeville, PA, for its 150th anniversary this Saturday, June 23, 2007. Dr. J. Warren Royer, a well-respected doctor who was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, founded the Warren Lodge in 1857. Since its inception, the Warren Lodge has held a position of distinction in American Freemasonry. Most recently, one of Warren Lodge's officers, Mr. Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., was elected to the highest position in Freemasonry, that of Right Worshipful Grand Master of Pennsylvania from 2002–2003. Throughout his term, he helped fellow Masonic Villages improve their organizations and uphold the traditions and customs of the Freemasons, including those located in Elizabethtown, Lafayette Hill and Sewickley, PA. He also supervised the restoration of the historic Memorial Arch located at Valley Forge National Park.

The Warren Lodge continues to maintain an impressive facility called the R.W.G.M. Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr. Museum. One of the many treasures on display is an exact replica of the 1752 Philip Syng Inkstand, the original of which is currently on display at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Philip Syng was the R.W.G.M. of Pennsylvania in 1743, and it was his inkstand that was used by the signers of the Declaration of Independence. In addition, George Washington called for its use once again when the U.S. Constitution was signed in Philadelphia.

At this year's anniversary celebration, the Warren Lodge's special guest of honor will be the current Right Worshipful Grand Master of Pennsylvania, Mr. Ronald A. Aungst, Sr. The members and officers of Warren Lodge will present to Mr. Aungst, Sr. an exact replica of the Syng Inkstand, honoring his exemplary service and dedication to upholding the ancient tradition of Masons helping Masons daily.

Madam Speaker, I am sure my fellow Members join me today in congratulating the Warren Lodge, No. 310 for this historic milestone and wish them 150 more years of honorable service to their lodge and community. Thank you.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Fiscal Year 2008 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, through which this Congress and this government speak to the world about our international priorities.

The past decade has seen this nation pull into a shell like a turtle, something the rest of the world took as not caring about the fundamental challenges elsewhere in the world . . . before those challenges became full-fledged hot spots. We are a great Nation, a leader among nations. We must only act in that fashion. Today, we begin a new direction in foreign policy.

While this Foreign Operations bill deals specifically with our global footprint, it also has benefit for those that live near international borders. For instance, I am pleased the bill includes \$15.5 million for the Rio Grande Flood Control System Rehabilitation, a matter my border colleagues and I have been working on for several years.

These funds will allow the International Boundary and Water Commission to begin repairing and restoring the 270 miles of levees along the Rio Grande River. This is only a first step to fully restore the integrity of the levees, the cost for restoration is estimated at \$125 million. These funds were requested by the South Texas Delegation, including Congressman HINOJOSA and Congressman CUELLAR.

Over the last few years, budget limitations have not allowed the IBWC to properly maintain the levees. Used by Border Patrol to patrol the border and farmers to manage their land, the levees have severely deteriorated to the point that some areas are flat. In their current form, the IBWC is unable to certify the levees meaning the 1.3 million residents along this area are in danger of severe flooding. Hurricane Katrina showed us the awesome and dangerous power of Mother Nature. This funding is critical to prevent an international flooding disaster . . . a disaster that will remain possible until all the levees are repaired so IBWC can certify them. This is—quite literally—the least we can do to begin to fix this damage.

I thank the appropriators for including this funding and their recognition of the danger that is as far away as a powerful flooding event. I urge the House negotiators to keep this amount of funding included in this bill through conference.

IN MEMORY OF ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES CHANEY AND MICHAEL SCHWERNER

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today before the House to honor the memory of 3 young men: Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner. Forty-three years ago, today, these young men paid the ultimate price when they were ruthlessly murdered by those who wished to silence their outcry for equality.

On June 21, 1964, in Neshoba County, Mississippi, Goodman, Chaney and Schwerner were pulled over and subsequently arrested for allegedly speeding. After being denied their basic rights as prisoners, they were fined \$20

and released. But Mississippi in 1964 was a dangerous place for civil rights workers; they were followed and assaulted by a group of Ku Klux Klan members. The young activists were never seen alive again.

The summer of 1964 became known as Freedom Summer. Students from around the country were united in a single vital struggle against racial inequality. Over 1,000 young volunteers traveled to Mississippi that summer with the intention of registering African American voters. They defied the local authorities, who were determined to undermine their efforts and succeeded in establishing dozens of quality summer schools and registering thousands of voters.

These volunteers came for various reasons. Some, like Schwerner and Goodman, came to Mississippi from the North to express their commitment to social justice. Others, like Chaney, volunteered because they were dedicated to the improvement of their own community. However, the unlikely trio of 2 New York Jews and an African American from the South were united in their unwavering devotion to ensure civil rights for all.

Even today, we must continue in the struggle for universal civil rights, as our society is not yet free from bigotry and injustice. The terrible murders of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner acted as sparks that further ignited the passion of everyday Americans to take a public stand against prejudice. As we remember these heroes of the civil rights movement, we must also aspire to emulate their tireless commitment to fairness and equality.

Madam Speaker, I hope Americans today will remember the sacrifices of these 3 young men to underscore our commitment to the continuing efforts towards achieving the full potential of our great Nation.

THE EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about the Education for Public Service Act of 2007, which I introduced earlier this week. In short, the Education for Public Service Act would make it easier for college graduates and those with advanced degrees to choose careers in government or non-profit enterprise. It will give those young people who attend higher education aspiring to become teachers, first responders, law enforcement officers, nurses, and civil servants a real chance to realize their dreams.

The rising cost of higher education has led to greater and greater student debt that in turn has become an impediment for many young people who would otherwise choose a career in service. Physicians who might choose to work in community health centers or individuals who want to inspire our Nation's youth as teachers are unable to follow their passion as a result of staggering debt. Our best and brightest are increasingly driven by this debt to choose entry-level positions based on salaries that will enable them to repay loans. Career choices should not be made this way.

In my home State of Maryland, the average starting salary for teachers is \$36,000; nationally, the average starting salary is \$30,377.

According to CRS, the average cost of tuition, other fees, and room and board at a public 4-year university exceeds \$48,000. At a private university that figure climbs to almost \$120,000. Predictably, fewer graduates are entering the teaching profession. In fact, more than 50 percent of teacher education program graduates never even enter the teaching profession. More than 50 percent of new teachers leave the profession within their first 5 years in the field. We are also facing a crisis of human capital in the Federal workforce. Approximately half of the Federal workforce is eligible for retirement or early retirement. Federal agencies like the Social Security Administration and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are bracing for serious worker shortages resulting from attrition. Madam Speaker, these are such important jobs and yet we have done very little to replenish these ranks. Clearly more can be done to provide sufficient incentives to young workers—the next generation of public servants—to join the civil service. But we ought to start by removing the barriers that affirmatively preclude young people from joining.

In 1993, Congress created the income-contingent repayment option to help individuals earning lower salaries deal with the burden of student loans. Under this plan, borrowers' repayment obligations are capped at a percentage of their annual income and any remaining principal is forgiven at the end of 25 years. But because 25 years of repayment seems so daunting to an individual just finishing college, this initiative has not resolved the underlying problem. The Education for Public Service Act of 2007 would modify the current income-contingent repayment program to provide loan forgiveness after 10 years rather than 25 years, so long as the borrower has worked for a government agency or a charitable or tax-exempt organization during the repayment period.

Madam Speaker, the Education for Public Service Act of 2007 will help ensure that service to one's Nation and community will no longer be out of reach for our next generation. In closing, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Congressman GEORGE MILLER whom I have worked with in developing this legislation. Chairman MILLER has led the Education and Labor Committee with a focus on American families and American students and I am very pleased that he has included the Education for Public Service Act as part of his College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which will increase support for students and families with no new costs to taxpayers. If we enact this legislation, idealistic students will be able to attend our institutions of higher learning knowing that they will be able to realize their dreams.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 AND RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO CONTINUE PURSUING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 406 and the far reaching achievements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, also known as the Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act. There is no question that women in this country have come a long way in the past 35 years, and there is little doubt that much of that progress is a result of title IX.

Prior to the passage of title IX, it was commonplace for colleges and universities to refuse admission to women simply on the basis of their gender. Of the handful of female college professors, most taught at all-female colleges, received salaries lower than their male counterparts, and very few were ever awarded tenure. Back then, schools could deny women training in fields deemed "inappropriate" such as woodworking or automotive repair, and girls ere discouraged from studying math and science. Only 1 in 27 girls played high school sports, and female college athletes received only 2 percent of overall athletic budgets.

This landmark legislation, passed in 1972, prohibits gender-based discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities. Its effects have been felt far beyond the classroom and athletic field.

Today, women earn undergraduate and graduate degrees at much higher rates, even comprising a majority of undergraduate and graduate school enrollment. Women can no longer be denied access to the vocational courses of their choice, and girls now take upper-level math and science classes at the same rate as boys. Additionally, female participation in intercollegiate athletics has increased by 400 percent over the past 30 years. In high school athletics, female participation has increased by 800 percent.

Title IX's passage has allowed girls and women to see no boundaries to their potential. Today, they can look around and see female doctors, lawyers, astronauts, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, Nobel laureates and NASCAR drivers. They even have a female Speaker of this House to serve as their role model. Title IX has led to the advancement of women in countless areas of our society. However, the work of title IX is not yet complete.

Still today, women, on average, earn only 75 cents for every \$1 a man earns. Even more, women continue to lag behind men in earning doctoral and professional degrees. In academia, women earn less, hold lower ranking positions and are less likely to be awarded tenure than men. Despite comprising over 50 percent of the student population, women make up only 42 percent of high school and college varsity athletes, and male athletes receive \$137 million more than female athletes in college athletic scholarships. That does not

even take into account the barriers that title IX does not address. Negative stereotypes, subtle discrimination, and workplace practices that indirectly adversely affect women are still pervasive in our society.

Mr. Speaker, even in this great body, which is supposed to be representative of the American people, only 17 percent of our Members are female. Therefore, while we celebrate title IX's accomplishments over the last 35 years, it is necessary to remember that the struggle for gender equity continues.

I proudly commend Congresswoman HIRONO for introducing this resolution which celebrates the far reaching accomplishments of title IX. I look forward to the day that all Americans are able to achieve their promise regardless of their gender.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE WAR ON TERROR

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the continued need for accountability in the war on terror. I support the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, but must register my concerns about the money we pledge to send to Pakistan.

Clear rules and accountability are vital to winning the war on terror. Just as we attach benchmarks and set goals for the money the United States sends to Iraq and Afghanistan, we must do the same for Pakistan—especially if Pakistan is to continue as a true partner in this fight.

While Iraq continues to smolder, Osama bin Laden—the murderer of more than 3,000 innocent Americans is still at large. President Bush said at a press conference 5 years ago, that he "didn't spend much time on him."

Recently, when asked why bin Laden hadn't been brought to justice yet he said: "Why is he still at large? Because we haven't got him yet . . . That's why. And he's hiding, and we're looking, and we will continue to look until we bring him to justice."

This is not good enough.

Meanwhile, the Taliban is resurgent in Afghanistan and American commanders on the ground are asking for more troops to fight terror, hunt down al Qaeda and kill Osama bin Laden.

Madam Speaker, we need to win the war on terror—and that means hunting down bin Laden and al Qaeda wherever they are. That means—above all else—success in Afghanistan.

Our troops over there are doing an amazing job and they deserve our continued support. It is getting harder for them, especially along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan—and in some of the areas where we believe bin Laden is still at large.

I have always said that we needed to be tough and smart in fighting the war on terror. That means asking tough questions—even of our friends. One question that needs to be asked—especially as we prepare to send them \$300 million dollars—is about Pakistan's President Musharraf.

Right now we can count President Musharraf as an ally but is he doing all he can