

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.