

doing so, we commit the Federal government to become an equal partner with the State of Florida to restore the Everglades and protect the River of Grass.

Regrettably, since the passage of this legislation, restoration efforts in Congress have been mired. For 7 years under Republican rule, Congress failed to afford Everglades revitalization efforts the priority they deserved and failed to properly fund restoration programs.

As a result of Congress' delays in authorizing financing and developmental pressures in South Florida, the costs of repairing the Everglades have drastically soared.

Today we have a new Congress with new priorities. This Democratic Congress has worked relentlessly—in a bipartisan fashion—to keep the Federal government's end of the bargain and restore its commitment to the River of Grass.

Just last month, Congress overrode a President Bush veto and passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, authorizing \$1.8 billion in Everglades restoration funding, including funding the two long awaited and critical projects: the Indian River Lagoon and the Picayune Strand.

As we pause to celebrate the anniversary of the Everglades National Park tomorrow, we enhance our vigilant efforts to restore and conserve the Park to the pristine ecosystem it once was.

As Marjory Stoneman Douglas wrote in *The Everglades: River of Grass*, "There is a balance in man also, one which has set against his greed and his inertia and his foolishness. . . . Perhaps even in this last hour, in a new relation of usefulness and beauty, the vast magnificent, subtle and unique region of the Everglades may not be utterly lost."

Today, I rise to ensure that these majestic wetlands will forever be remembered, preserved and protected for all future generations of Americans to enjoy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD "DICK" BOWERS, FORMER ASSOCIATE DEAN, PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND FORMER ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to herald the life and philanthropic contributions of Richard "Dick" Bowers, and to express our gratitude for his achievements at the University of South Florida as well as in all of Florida.

Bowers, a native of Tennessee, served in the United States Army and retired with the rank of captain. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Tennessee and his doctorate in education from Vanderbilt-Peabody College. Bowers taught at various institutions ranging from King College in Bristol, TN, to the University of Rangoon, in Burma, on a Fulbright scholarship.

In 1963, Bowers moved to the Tampa area, where he assumed the University of South

Florida's first ever athletics director position. During his tenure, Bowers oversaw the creation of the university's baseball field, golf course, and SunDome basketball arena. He was honored in 1982 for his Outstanding Contribution to the Sunbelt Conference, which he helped form. After 17 years, Bowers moved from the athletic director position and became involved in the University of South Florida's college of business, where he was associate dean, professor, and director of development.

Bowers was also very influential in the Tampa Bay area through his philanthropic work. He served as president of the Gold Shield Foundation for 18 years, which raises money for families of fallen police officers and firefighters. In addition, Bowers took leadership roles in numerous other community organizations including the United Way, the National Youth Sports Program, the Tampa Chapter National Football Foundation, the Hall of Fame Bowl Selection Committee, the Northside Bank Board, the Florida State Department of Education Task Force in Physical Education, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the Tampa Sports Club, and the Hispanic Business Institute.

We honor the life of Richard "Dick" Bowers for his outstanding contribution to our wonderful Tampa Bay community, the University of South Florida and the entire State of Florida. Dick Bowers' life serves as an inspiration to all who knew him and his contributions and achievements will impact the lives of all Floridians in the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ANTHEM PROJECT

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize The National Anthem Project a 3-year national education campaign, led by our Nation's music educators, to raise awareness of the importance of music programs in our Nation's schools.

The National Anthem Project was launched by the National Association for Music Education in 2005, in response to a survey conducted by Harris Interactive. The Harris Poll showed that two out of three Americans did not know the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner." The National Association for Music Education believes that this lack of knowledge, concerning the words and history of our national anthem, is a direct reflection of the quality of music education in our Nation's schools.

Music programs are considered an important part of a well-rounded education. Research shows that music programs help students perform better in math and science. Music education also provides students with a greater appreciation of America's musical heritage and history, as most Americans learn the national anthem and other patriotic songs at school.

The goal of the National Anthem Project was to "restore America's voice," by re-teaching Americans to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and by spotlighting the important role of music programs in our Nation's schools.

The 3-year project began on March 10, 2005, with a kick-off celebration on Capital Hill. The kick-off was followed by a nationwide Road Show tour in 2006 and hundreds of additional project-inspired events. The National Anthem Project came to a close in June of 2007, with a 3-day Grand Finale on the grounds of the Washington Monument. The Finale featured over 5,000 participants, including celebrities, Drum Corps International, music teachers, and students from all across the United States, who gathered together to celebrate the achievements of the National Anthem Project and, of course, to sing the national anthem.

The National Anthem Project has been a great success. Not only has the project succeeded in re-teaching the words and history of our national anthem, but it has also inspired people all over the country to have a greater appreciation of America's musical heritage and the importance of music education in our Nation's schools. The National Anthem Project has garnered significant news coverage from thousands of news outlets across the country, including Fox News, CNN, and Good Morning America. The success of The National Anthem Project has even received the attention of the Senate, which passed a Resolution in July of 2007 in support of the project's goals and ideals. It is my pleasure to share with you today the achievements of the National Anthem Project.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE HENRY HYDE OF ILLINOIS

SPEECH OF

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to our departed colleague, Representative Henry Hyde. I am saddened by the death of this exceptionally fine and honorable man, who so ably served not only the best interests of his constituents but, indeed, the entire nation for over 30 years in this House. Henry Hyde will be remembered in many different ways—as a skilled attorney who respected and defended the rule of law; as a stout champion of the rights of the unborn; and as a distinguished statesman who promoted peaceful and just international relations and agreements.

As I remember the life and service of Henry Hyde, one personal experience stands out in my mind. In 1984, I was involved in a closely contested race for an open Michigan State Senate seat. A prominent pro-life organization endorsed my opponent, based not on my record or his, but on unrelated reasons. This was done despite my own consistent pro-life voting record and ardent pro-life policy stance. The pro-life endorsement carried considerable weight in the district and was a noteworthy point in the campaign. Henry Hyde found out about this development, and he was outraged. He traveled up from Illinois to campaign for me, to correct what he considered a grave injustice. Of course, given the passage of the "Hyde amendment" to prevent federal funds from being used for abortions—remarkably, passed during his first term in Congress in 1974—Henry Hyde was a hero in the pro-life