HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD 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. DUTCHE 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 that 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, attended by 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 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, so ably served his constituents and by spotlighting the important role of music programs in our Nation’s schools. 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, attended by 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 anthem.

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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 for 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
Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an honorable lifelong farmer, fine American and dear friend who made significant contributions to the agricultural community for our nation.

Frank Sollars was born in 1921 in Concord Township, Ohio to Walter Eugene and Mabel Blanche Bowers Sollars and graduated from Washington High School in 1939.

Although he was a farmer by profession, Frank was also a leader in agricultural cooperatives, the insurance business and agricultural financing. As an International Cooperative Alliance Central Committee member, Frank hosted delegations from Russia, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, China, Japan, and Taiwan on the farm. Frank served as president of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Ohio Agricultural Marketing Association. He served as a board member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the American Agricultural Marketing Association and served on the Board of Governors of the National Agricultural Hall of Fame. He was a board member on the first Soil Conservation Service Board in Fayette County for ten years and was chairman for five years.

Frank held numerous leadership roles in the finance industry including Chairman of the Board of Nationwide Insurance, Chairman of the Board of the National Cooperative Business Association, a director of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Ohio Consumers council and a director of the Fifth Third Bank of Columbus. He served on the Federal Reserve Bank Advisory Committee and was instrumental in establishing the National Cooperative Bank in Washington, D.C. where he served as Board Chairman from 1980–1998 after being appointed by Presidents Carter, Reagan and Bush.

Commonly referred to as the “Founding Father of the National Cooperative Banks,” Frank was awarded the Stanley W. Dreyer Spirit of Cooperation Award in 2006 for his commitment and dedication to banking. In recognition of Frank as an international cooperative leader, The Frank B. Sollars Fund for International Cooperation was established in 1998.

Locally, Frank was a member of the Fayette County Farm Bureau, Fayette County Agronomy Committee and Agronomy Club, and the Concord Township Farm Bureau Advisory Council. He was a board member of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus representing Fayette County and was a trustee of the Southern State Community College Foundation. Frank served on the board as chairman of the Fayette County Bank and Sollars Brothers Corporation.

Frank received numerous honors throughout his life including being inducted into the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame, Fayette Agricultural Hall of Fame, National Cooperative Business Association Hall of Fame and the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Hall of Fame. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio Farm Bureau and was named the Outstanding Young Farmer by the Ohio Jaycees in 1956.

Although Frank has been recognized for numerous honors, he always believed his family was his greatest accomplishment. Frank gave many years of his life to improve and promote the agricultural industry he loved, because he truly believed it was his duty to serve his family and his country. He was a member of the Grace United Methodist Church.

A devout public servant, Frank was a man of honor and compassion. On behalf of the Congress, I extend sympathetic to his family and gratitude for all he did to improve agriculture for our nation. His service and friendship will be missed by all.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

HON. PAUL RYAN
OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark the 46th anniversary of independence for the United Republic of Tanzania, and to congratulate the leaders and citizens of that great Nation for all that they have achieved.

It’s impossible to talk about Tanzania’s history and development without remembering the Nation’s founder and first president, Julius Nyerere, “Mwalimu,” or “Teacher,” as he was affectionately known, was a great man among African leaders of his time. He dedicated his life to building a sense of national identity and unity. He wanted his countrymen to think of themselves as Tanzanians first and foremost, and not to set themselves apart because of their religion or ethnicity. Nearly a half century later, it is clear that his dream is alive and well.

We should also commend Tanzania’s president, Jakaya Kikwete, for all of his efforts to carry on the good work of Mwalimu and other Tanzanian leaders. From his leadership of Tanzania’s National Testing Campaign, to his fight against HIV/AIDS to his calls for greater transparency in government and an end to corruption, President Kikwete has tirelessly dedicated himself to a brighter future for his country and his people.

As Tanzania enters its 47th year of independence on December 9, 2007, let us celebrate Tanzania’s legacy of peace and stability, thank Tanzania for its close friendship with the United States, and pledge ourselves to work closely with President Kikwete and his people as they move boldly into the future.

COMMENDING TRIANGLE STUDENTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN DARFURFAST

HON. DAVID E. PRICE
OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, once again, let me commend the students, friends and family members from the Carolina Friends School community in Durham, North Carolina who are making a simple, but powerful, statement today to raise awareness of a topic that compels the attention of this body—the plight of Sudanese citizens driven to camps for refugees and internally displaced persons, or IDPs, by the horrible genocide occurring in Darfur.

The Carolina Friends School community members, along with others from across the country and around the world, have given up one luxury item today—something like a restaurant dinner, a movie, or a cup of coffee—and will donate the money they would have spent to the Genocide Intervention Network’s Civilian Protection program.

Individually, these are small sacrifices, but collectively, these donations will make a tremendous difference. IDPs are under tremendous threats, despite the relative protection the camps offer. Residents must venture from the camps to obtain simple items, such as the firewood needed to cook food. But camp residents have routinely been attacked, raped, or killed by Janjaweed militia members and others when they leave the confines of the camps.

Just three dollars—the price of a cup of coffee in many places—can fund protection for UN-African Union peacekeepers for firewood gathering patrols for one camp resident over the course of an entire year. Just one cup of coffee can make a life-saving difference.

Beyond simply generating donations, the activism of these concerned citizens sends a powerful message, a cry for help in confronting a horrific tragedy. As their simple actions demonstrate, hundreds of thousands of Darfuris are dying for items we often take for granted. While the DarfurFast volunteers are asked to give up a luxury item for one day, many Darfuris go without food for days at a time. Thousands of camp residents have died from malnutrition, from preventable disease, and from lack of access to clean water. These victims are just as much casualties of the genocide as are the Darfuris killed by marauding militias.

I applaud these students and community members for their message, and urge my colleagues to listen to it closely. Let us ask ourselves, what could we, here in Congress, give up for Darfur? Would we be willing to give up one day of spending in Iraq—worth about $200 million—to save lives in Darfur? Would we forego eating a few too many meals for the wealthy? What are we willing to sacrifice to stop the genocide and save the lives of millions of innocent civilians threatened every day by savage militias and a heartless regime in Khartoum that refuses to stop them?

Madam Speaker, once again, let me commend these students and community members—and the individuals around the world participating in DarfurFast—for their activism. I hope we will all heed their call.