

a system in which judges would be appointed until his death.

He remained engaged in public service, working as Governor George W. Bush's appointee to the Texas Lottery Commission, and supporting the Governor in his bid for the White House. The final years of John's legal career were spent as a senior partner with Locke Liddel and Sapp LLP, and later as a senior partner with the Winstead firm, where he was a shareholder.

John is survived by his wife, the former Elizabeth Ann Graham; a son, John Graham Hill; two daughters, Melinda Elizabeth Hill Perrin and Martha Hill Jamison; ten grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a great American, outstanding public servant, and respected jurist, the Honorable John Hill.

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## MENTAL HEALTH

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### HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, our country has been witnessing and suffering the pain and anguish when a distressed individual takes to shooting at random or killing in revenge, be it a student or a former employee. More and more we hear of stories relating to our returning war heroes' mental health plight and inability to cope with what they have gone through in Afghanistan and/or Iraq. While most older veterans will quickly tell you they had periods of rest and relaxation between tours, that is no longer the case.

For far too long we have shunned speaking of or dealing with brain functions misfiring, or in stigmatized words, "mental health." We do not see it, hear it, or speak of it, as it connotes "crazy" and "institutions." However we cannot ignore that mental illness does not discriminate. It touches all regardless of race, gender, class, or religion.

Look at rising suicide statistics for jailed or homeless individuals and unattended veterans who attempt such drastic measures. It is a national crisis and our great shame. Enough of words, action should have begun yesterday. Early prevention must be implemented in schools to allow for early identification by teachers of children who exhibit behavioral problems. And the government must pay attention at every level as this is an issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the community's well-being and economic stability.

We have tests and screenings for breast cancer, heart attacks, strokes, and a myriad of other diseases and conditions, but we have not yet woken up to the fact that the brain's functions are vital to our body's health and survival. It is critical that we destigmatize mental illness so that our children, our families, and our wounded warrior veterans receive the necessary help they need to lead productive lives with supportive families and communities.

## IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS ACT

### HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fair Funding for Schools Act, which reauthorizes and improves an important education program called Impact Aid. Impact Aid benefits millions of American students attending elementary and secondary schools in every State in the country. Through this program, the Federal Government does the right thing by reimbursing local school districts for lost tax revenue due to its actions.

The majority of public school funding in America comes from local property taxes. Unfortunately, this vital funding stream is drastically reduced for school districts where the Federal Government takes control of part of the land. For instance, the many U.S. military bases located in Hawai'i take up a vast amount of space and house large populations, but these bases do not generate local property taxes. In other States large national parks, Federal prisons, and Indian lands all similarly decrease local property tax revenue. Left uncorrected, this loss of revenue would leave the children living in these areas with a second class education, funded by substantially fewer dollars than their peers living in areas with no federally impacted land.

In 1950, Congress recognized the need to address this inequity and created Impact Aid, a program by which we provide additional Federal dollars to school districts feeling this kind of financial strain.

Impact Aid is one of the most effective programs run by the Department of Education because it sends money directly to local school districts with very few strings attached. Just like the property tax revenue it replaces, Impact Aid dollars can be used to fund the most essential needs identified by the school district—textbooks, computers, utilities, and salaries, for instance. Many districts rely heavily on this money, and without it their students would be shortchanged. Therefore, we must reauthorize the program.

Even great programs need to be tweaked every so often, and this Fair Funding for Schools Act makes necessary changes in Impact Aid. It addresses the military realities of base realignment and troop redeployment by allowing Impact Aid payments to be calculated using current student counts instead of prior year data. This change will allow districts receiving an influx of new military families to receive their Impact Aid dollars in a timely manner.

The Impact Aid law also has become overly complicated during its 57-year history. This bill simplifies the law by eliminating some outdated provisions that were adding unnecessary complications. It also maintains the program's traditional focus on need, whereby payments to school districts are calculated based on the percentage of the budget lost due to Federal actions and on the number of federally connected children.

Madam Speaker, this is a vital important bill for Hawai'i and for many school districts across the country. The students most impacted are often from families serving in our military. Given the sacrifices we ask of military

families, they deserve nothing less than the best education for their children. This bill will take us in that direction, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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## HONORING TIM MADDEN

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Tim Madden and to commend him for his service to the Eastern Madera community. On Friday, November 30, 2007, the Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Mr. Madden for his continued dedication to not only its chamber, but to the North Fork Chamber of Commerce and Eastern Madera County.

Tim Madden is a 17 year resident of Eastern Madera County, his continued commitment to his community is evident by his service in a multitude of leadership positions throughout the area. Within the Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Madden's positions include past president (2007), president (2006), president-elect (2005), and member of the board of directors (2004). During his service with the Chamber, the efforts of Mr. Madden enabled the Chamber to authorize the inaugural Trade Mission to China, regain fiscal solvency, create a county-wide promotion system, promote local commerce and further downtown development and maintenance for the Oakhurst Business District.

Tim Madden also served as president of the North Fork Chamber of Commerce from 1998–2000, and as a member of the board of directors for 6 years. The list of community positions and appointments held by Mr. Madden continues, as does the esteem and gratitude of Eastern Madera County. Concerning the relationship Mr. Madden shares with his community, he remarked, "Our connection to each other extends far beyond our business relationships. We are much more like a very large extended family."

Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor Tim Madden and the respect his community has shown for his dedicated service. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Madden many years of continued success.

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## HONORING CHANCELLOR JOHN WILEY

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Wiley, upon his retirement as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. John is a dedicated public servant who has earned the respect and admiration of the professors, staff, and students under his supervision. Passionate, genuine, and sincere are just a few of the words used to describe Chancellor Wiley's commitment to the university and greater Madison community.

As a graduate student, former faculty member, provost, vice chancellor, and current