

their G.I. Bill benefits are considered resources, which are then counted against the amount of aid they can receive. My bill would fix that problem and ensure that the G.I. Bill is used as intended, a benefit for military service, as opposed to a means to reduce the amount of student aid our veterans can receive.

The current law prevents student veterans from taking full advantage of Stafford and Perkins Loans, Pell Grants, and Federal Work-study. I believe it is critical that we continue to fight for college affordability, especially when it comes to providing for our veterans.

I think it is wrong to judge the needs of our veterans with the same standard as other students without military service.

I know Mr. FILNER, the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, has made it a priority to reform the G.I. Bill this session, but in the mean time, it is important that we work together as a Congress to fix this financial aid problem.

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, since 1920, the League of Women Voters (LWV) has fought for good government and an engaged, enlightened citizenry.

Founded by Carrie Chapman Catt just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified and women were afforded the right to vote, this vital organization works tirelessly to protect the democratic process in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong.

The League began as a "mighty political experiment" to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters and encourage them to use their new power to shape public policy. As their mission statement demands, the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization to encourage informed and active participation in government, increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Over its history, the League's legislative priorities have reflected the greatest needs of our society. Our victories in the House and Senate in addressing the concerns of Americans owe much to the efforts of those dedicated patriots of the League of Women Voters.

I would like to congratulate and honor the League of Women Voters on its 78th anniversary.

In the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I am fortunate to represent constituents from Delaware, Montgomery and Chester counties. In our district, the League of Women Voters is superbly represented by Ms. Lora Lavin and Ms. Norma Tower of Swarthmore Pennsylvania, Ms. Rosemary Kessling of Drexel Hill Pennsylvania, Gayla McCluskey of Radnor Pennsylvania, Susan Fields of Kemblesville, Pennsylvania, May Bell Ball of Flourtown, Pennsylvania, Suzanne F. Andrews of Norristown, Pennsylvania and Carol Snow of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

For their energy, dedication to the highest ideals of democracy and service to their neighbors, I request that we recognize this extraordinary organization and its members for their invaluable contributions to our great nation.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN MEMINGER
MAYO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor an important figure in the city of New York, a man whose voice reaches thousands of people, and who has consistently proven himself to be principled and fair in his judgment, Mr. Dean Meminger Mayo. In his professional capacity as a news reporter and anchor for the NY1 network, Mr. Meminger is charged with chronicling major events and other matters of importance to residents of New York. He approaches this work with a poise and professionalism beyond his years, and many have come to view his reporting as an unvarnished source of information upon which they can better comprehend the issues of the day. In his personal history as a native New Yorker, someone who has chosen to make our beloved city his home, we trust that the lens through which he views New York can be at once constructively critical and yet understanding.

Born in Harlem Hospital but raised in the Bronx, Mr. Meminger attended St. Augustine's Elementary School and later Cardinal Spellman High School. A bright and athletically gifted student, Dean was awarded a track and field scholarship to Pace University in Westchester, New York. While at Pace, Dean discovered both his love and talent for media and communications. He joined the college radio station as a disk jockey only to rise quickly to the position of news director. During his senior year of college, Dean interned with the Sports

Department of WABC-Eyewitness News, giving him exposure to professional news coverage and cementing his desire to make his mark in this field.

Mr. Meminger got his break in 1995, when he was hired by BronxNet TV as a reporter and substitute news anchor. Then in 1997, Mr. Meminger joined the team at NY1 News, one of the city's most watched cable news channels. Over the past decade while at NY1, he has covered some of the city's biggest stories, bringing to his coverage everything from sharp analysis to compassion, but always with the goal of bringing unbiased and clear reporting to his viewers. Recently, Mr. Meminger played an important role in reporting the events of a tragic house fire in the Bronx that claimed the lives of 9 children in two families of African immigrants. The painful events surrounding this story, coupled with a simultaneous national debate about U.S. immigration policy and enforcement, caused this family's personal loss to become a national story. For days, the whole of New York grieved with this family. And as the grieving process unfolded, Mr. Meminger was on hand to report the developments as they arose, helping us to understand exactly what had occurred and what was yet to come for these families and for their community. Sensitive coverage of wrenching events like the Highbridge fire have become Mr. Meminger's hallmark, but his history as a sought after resource during difficult events dates back to September 11th, 2001 and to the shootings of Amadou Diallo and Sean Bell.

Madam Speaker, Dean Meminger helps us to better understand and reflect upon the fluid state of affairs that we as New Yorkers all must learn to navigate. He is a proud man who possesses a keen intellect and an ever-growing capacity for insight. As an African-American, he inspires us, as people of color, when we see his face on television tackling issues that often cross color lines. The need still exists in America for greater acceptance in our society; for more, not less, tolerance and understanding. By being a positive and thoughtful voice in our city, Dean gains entry into our homes and earns our trust on a daily basis, and this, I am sure, is only a good thing. His profession requires that he not be an advocate for any one issue above another, but by virtue of his person, Dean advocates every day for multiculturalism and pluralism in this city. So on this February day during Black History Month, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to a man who is not only reporting, but also influencing history, Mr. Dean Meminger Mayo.