

ALIA SHEYA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alia Sheya, who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alia Sheya is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alia Sheya is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Alia Sheya for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARROLL
SHELBY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carroll Shelby, a true visionary in the automotive industry, to honor his receipt for the Automotive Industry Executive of the Year's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Born January 11, 1923 in Texas, Carroll Hall Shelby served admirably in the U.S. Air Force as a flight instructor and test pilot during World War II. After his service with the military, Shelby began what would become a decorated and distinguished career as a professional automobile racer. Named Sports Illustrated's Driver of the Year in 1956 and 1957. Carroll Shelby was also inducted into both the International MotorSports Hall of Fame and the Automobile Hall of Fame.

Mr. Shelby's influence on the racing world as a driver was only exceeded by his impact as an automotive designer, securing his legacy as an industry luminary through the many innovations and designs that have shaped and reshaped the cars we drive today. Some of the most beautiful and powerful cars ever made, including the Ford GT40, the Ford Shelby Mustangs, and the Dodge Viper, are the product of his vision and expertise.

Beyond his achievements in the automotive realm, Carroll Shelby has demonstrated his compassion through his commitment to the Carroll Shelby Children's Foundation, a charity he established to help children in need of heart and kidney transplants. His work with this foundation has helped many families and has fueled research that will help save even more lives throughout the future.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements and service of Carroll Shelby. His many contributions to the automotive industry and the country represent his commitment to excellence, and I wish congratulations for receiving this prestigious award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHING
AND RESEARCH ASSISTANT COL-
LECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS
ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Teaching and Research Assistant Collective Bargaining Rights Act. This legislation will restore the right of graduate assistants to organize and bargain for better wages and working conditions under the National Labor Relations Act, NLRA.

Graduate assistants across this country have seen their workloads dramatically increase in recent years. As many colleges and universities try to cut costs they have relied on graduate students to take on a larger role and more responsibility: They teach classes, develop course curriculum, grade student papers, and provide counseling. One reason for this trend is simple—graduate student teachers are paid a fraction of what faculty earn. Confronted with this economic reality, graduate assistants, many of whom have families to support, have sought to exercise their right to organize and bargain collectively for a better deal.

Right on cue, as it has done with millions of other workers, the Bush NLRB quickly stripped away the right of graduate teaching students to join a union and have a voice at the bargaining table. The National Labor Relations Board's, NLRB, 2004 decision in Brown University overturned prior precedent and found that graduate assistants are not employees under the NLRA and therefore not afforded the rights and protections of the Act. This decision has stripped away the right of over 51,000 teaching assistants, research assistants and proctors to bargain for better wages and working conditions at 1,561 private universities.

Thousands of graduate assistants continue to light for the right to join a union. At public universities in 14 States, graduate assistants are already afforded the right to join unions. According to the Coalition of Graduate Employee Unions, there are approximately 23 unions on more than 60 campuses in the United States, including the University of Michigan, the University of Massachusetts, and the University of California.

The Teaching and Research Assistant Collective Bargaining Rights Act is simple. It will amend Section 2(3) of the NLRA to clarify that the term "employee" includes any graduate student who is performing work for compensation at the direction of the institution. As employees, these workers would have the right to organize and bargain collectively under the NLRA. This bill restores prior precedent. As the NLRA covers only private sector workers, State schools are not affected by the Brown University decision or this legislation.

The Teaching and Research Assistant Collective Bargaining Rights is about fundamental fairness and justice. It will restore the right to thousands of hardworking graduate employees to bargain for better wages and working conditions. I urge all of my colleagues to support this country's graduate teaching assistants and support this legislation.

HONORING 108 YEARS OF SILENT
SERVICE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, last week, I had the honor of participating in a wreath laying ceremony at the United States Navy Memorial to mark the 108th anniversary of the submarine force. The ceremony, held in front of the memorial's "Lone Soldier," was a moving tribute to the proud heritage of our submarine force and the dedicated submariners who have silently protected our Nation for more than 100 years. And, over the last weekend, I was proud to attend Naval Submarine Base New London's annual submarine birthday ball.

For over a century, sailors have embarked on dangerous service in a place where human life was never meant to exist in order to silently protect our Nation. There is an irony to the fact that while our Nation owes much of its security over the past century to the submarine force, most Americans will never truly know all that the "silent service" has done to protect us.

2008 is an especially important year in the history of the submarine force, as it marks the 50th anniversary of the USS *Nautilus*' (SSN-571) journey across the North Pole in 1958, an unprecedented achievement by our sailors at a critical time for our Nation. The men aboard her on her historic journey set the pace for all those who followed in their footsteps.

Much has changed about our submarine force and the role of our submariners since the USS *Holland* (SS-1) first set sail in 1900. In World War I and World War II, our submarines were not much more than surface ships that could submerge for a short period before surfacing. Yet, in very dangerous conditions and with high casualty rates, submariners sank an estimated 6 million tons of enemy merchant ships and sank nearly one-third of the Japanese Navy's warships. The cost of their efforts were high: 52 submarines and over 3,600 men, at a rate of nearly one in four, were lost in the war. But their sacrifice helped bring us to victory and proved the submarine's role in the defense of our Nation.

In the Cold War, submariners played a key role as a critical strategic deterrent in our protracted struggle with the Soviet Union. Silently patrolling in waters across the world, our attack and ballistic missile submarine crews helped to secure an uneasy peace by ensuring that we were ready to respond at any moment. There were no victory medals when it was over, no parades for the countless young men who served on these critical yet silent front lines, but there is no doubt our Nation is forever indebted to them and the era they helped us overcome.

And, as the Cold War ended and new challenges emerged, the modern attack submarine fleet, consisting of the Los Angeles- and Virginia-class, emerged as our Nation's front line defense. Today, our submariners are no less critical than the eras preceding us. We use submarines extensively around the globe, using their stealth to covertly gather intelligence briefed at the highest levels of our government. They are adapting and growing

to meeting the security challenges of the 21st century, and every day they remind us that submarines are, and will remain, at the core of our Nation's defense.

From the *Holland*, to the *Nautilus*, and to the newest boats in the fleet, the USS *North Carolina* (SSN-777) and USS *New Hampshire* (SSN-778), the capabilities and technologies on board may have changed dramatically, but one thing has always stayed the same: The strength of any submarine has always come down to those who command and serve aboard her.

In my travels over the past year, I have met countless commanding officers and sailors—many of them young men doing some of the most important work on behalf of our security—who selflessly dedicate their lives in dangerous service.

Our sailors serve in the harshest of conditions around the globe, on long tours away from their families literally stacked on top of their crewmates, often cut off from the rest of the world. They make up the smallest portion of our Navy and their achievements are most often secret. But, there is no doubt that each and every one of them loves what they do on behalf of the security of our Nation.

Every submariner today serves upon the foundation built by those that came before them. At the core of their service over the past century has been a legacy is one of devotion, bravery and innovation. Without a doubt, today's submarine force is living up to that legacy and building one of their own for those who come after them to follow.

This is an exciting time for the submarine force. It is a time of great possibility and of new challenges. But, after spending time with sailors in the mess hall of a submarine submerged below the ice to building relationships with officers at the top of the chain of command, I am confident that our submariners will continue the proud legacy built by those who came before them.

I ask all my colleagues to join with me in extending our deep appreciation to those who have, and continue to, silently serve our Nation, their families, and to all our Armed Forces serving today around the globe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote 200 yesterday, Wednesday, April 16, 2008, as I was attending to other business in the Capitol. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: "Yes" on motion that the Committee rise, H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act.

TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today, as millions of Americans prepare to file their Federal

income tax returns by midnight, many will be confounded, confused and, yes, perhaps even cranky because of our unbelievably complicated tax code, and, I don't think there's a person in this body who will blame them.

Our tax code is a maze of complexity that creates confusion and, yes, unfairness. In fact, between 2001 and 2006—when our Republican colleagues controlled the Congress and the White House—they added more than 10,000 pages to the Internal Revenue Code and regulations.

It now takes people an average of 34 hours to complete a 1040 long form. It's no wonder that 62 percent of Americans rely on a tax professional to prepare their returns.

The Democratic majority has been focused for years on making our Tax Code fairer and simpler—and doing so in a fiscally responsible way, but this issue also demands Presidential leadership. We know that from experience.

The last real tax reform occurred 22 years ago when President Reagan and Dan Rostenkowski, then Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, came together to streamline our Tax Code.

When a new President takes office in January 2009, I believe that this should be an issue near the top of the agenda—particularly an effort to reform the dreaded alternative minimum tax.

Today, we will consider the "Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act," which makes small, but important reforms to our Tax Code.

Among other things, this bill will:

Strengthen taxpayer protections from identity theft and tax fraud;

Expand assistance for low-income taxpayers;

Close tax loopholes that allow Government contractors to set up sham companies in foreign jurisdictions to avoid paying Social Security and Medicare taxes; and

End the private collection of Federal income taxes.

Just this morning, the Washington Post reported that the Internal Revenue Service expects to lose more than \$37 million by using private debt collectors to pursue tax scofflaws.

That's right—private companies hired to collect tax revenue that the IRS does not have the resources to pursue actually cost the Federal Government—i.e., taxpayers—more than they bring in.

Furthermore, let me say that there clearly is something wrong with our Tax Code when the costs of noncompliance—the so-called "tax gap"—is an estimated \$345 billion a year. The reality is, this tax gap is only going to be narrowed and closed when we get serious about real tax reform.

Until that day, Mr. Speaker, we must do what we can to make our tax laws fairer and simpler. This legislation is an important step in that regard.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for this bill, and, in the months ahead, to come together—like we did in 1986—in support of real tax reform.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF NORMAN M. WALKER IN CELEBRATION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF POLICE, CITY OF DEFIANCE, OHIO

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mr. Norman Walker. On Friday, April 18, 2008, Norman Walker will retire after thirty years of service on the City of Defiance's Police Department.

Over the last three decades, Norman Walker has certainly been an indispensable asset to the City of Defiance and to the northwest Ohio law enforcement community. His strong commitment to sound principles and honest leadership has guided his nearly fifteen years of service as Chief of Police. Mr. Walker's commitment to the law enforcement creed of "to serve and protect" was instilled in him as he worked his way through every rank in the Defiance Police Department. Without question, Mr. Walker has given unselfishly of his time and talents in order that the citizens of the City of Defiance might have a safe community in which to work and raise their families.

Norman Walker embodies the spirit of American public service and through his workman-style approach put his vision for a modern rural police department into action to establish the City of Defiance's police department as it model for the region. His dedication to community-oriented policing has empowered not only his fellow officers, but community residents as well, to play an active role in their own safety and have a voice in how their police department can continually provide better service to the residents of Defiance, Ohio.

Madam Speaker, it has often been said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. It is evident that Mr. Walker has devoted himself to the preservation of a free and just society where the rule of law is respected by all who call this great land their home. For that, we owe him a debt of gratitude that mere words cannot sufficiently express.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 110th Congress to join me in honoring Norman Walker. On the occasion of his retirement as the City of Defiance's Chief of Police, we thank him for his dedicated service and we wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

SHUMET DEMIE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shumet Demie who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Shumet Demie is a senior at Pomona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.