

INTRODUCTION OF THE U.S. RE-COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the attached resolution that calls for the United States to ratify and implement certain fundamental international conventions.

Today, May 1st is the 201st anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. On this day, we must rededicate ourselves to the human and civil rights movement to provide freedom and equality to all people.

This resolution is very simple; it is very clear; it is very basic. Our country was founded on the principles of civil and human rights. Many, many people—men, women, and even children—have sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today. Countless others work tirelessly to protect these rights. On this historic day, it is important to reiterate our commitment to combat slavery, torture, racism, discrimination, and xenophobia in all forms.

It takes more than words; this effort needs action. Sixty years ago, the United Nations used our Bill of Rights as a reference in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, led the United States delegation and the United Nations (U.N.) in helping to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Since that time, we've seen so many changes—a global movement towards civil and human rights. In our own country, people have sacrificed everything for key civil rights legislation like the passage of the Voting Rights Act, the Equal Pay Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

But Madam Speaker, somehow along the way, we've pulled away from a global movement that requires constant work, constant attention, and constant action. The U.S. must catch up with so many of our global partners.

How can we combat genocide in Darfur, if we ourselves have not ratified the U.N. Conventions that address the rights of women, children, and forced disappearance? How can we ask for our global trading partners to respect international labor standards, when we ourselves have not ratified ILO standards on the right to organize and bargain collectively, or forced child labor, or age discrimination? It is important to not only speak as global leader, but act as a global leader on key human and civil rights issues.

On this little piece of real estate that we call Earth, we all have our duty to make this world a little cleaner, a little better, and a little safer. This resolution, Madam Speaker, is about common sense, and I hope all of my colleagues will join me as cosponsors.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S TEACHERS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for the passage of House Resolution 1130, which recognizes the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural and economic well-being. I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. GRAVES, for offering this important resolution.

Our teachers play an instrumental role in guiding children throughout their adolescence and into adulthood. More than just instructors, teachers are mentors and friends who encourage students to reach their potential. They also serve as the eyes and ears for parents during the school day, playing a vital role in helping a child's personal growth and development.

As our Nation continues to expand rapidly, we must also continue to encourage people to enter the teaching profession so we will continue to have great teachers to meet our growing needs. Since entering Congress in 2003, I have been proud to support initiatives to recruit high school and college students to enter teaching and work in communities with the greatest needs. This year, I was also pleased to join as a co-sponsor of a resolution establishing National Teacher Day during National Teacher Appreciation Week, offered by the gentleman from Florida, Mr. KLEIN. Going forward, I will continue to support increased funding for NCLB and IDEA so that teachers have the resources they need to be most successful. Our teachers deserve nothing less.

Next week, as we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week, I encourage my constituents and all Americans to take a moment to reflect upon special moments they have shared with their teachers. I also encourage parents and students to take a moment, whether with a shiny apple or a simple thank you, to show teachers that they appreciate their service to our schools.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. GRAVES once again for offering this timely resolution and I want to thank each of my teachers for all they did to help me reach my potential.

PAUL SOREFF AND AILA

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Paul Soreff on receiving the "Most Significant Work or Work Having the Greatest Impact" award from the Washington State Chapter of American Immigration Lawyers Association, AILA.

Prospective citizens have to jump through many hoops during their journey to becoming a citizen. I am often contacted by hard-working men and women who want nothing more than to be an American. Their courage, tenacity and new found patriotism is inspiring, much like the help Paul provides so many of them.

As the driving force behind AILA's Citizenship Day, Paul's dedication in helping legal permanent residents apply for naturalization is a wonderful, patriotic thing to do. The work Paul invested in Washington State's newest citizens is now being emulated nationwide. The participation level at Citizenship Day is outstanding and it is no doubt a reflection of Paul's leadership and selfless nature. He also serves as a professor of law at Seattle University and his students are very fortunate to have such an advocate as a teacher.

While navigating the immigration system is not easy, the guidance and service Paul provides alleviates stress and anxiety for many. His selfless work is an example for not only immigration attorneys and professors but also for each of us.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during public service recognition week, in honor of Maryland's Federal workers.

The work of our Federal employees often goes unnoticed in our daily lives. Without these men and women, though, we would not have made enormous progress in areas such as medical research and the protection of clean water and clean air. We would not have a mail system that our communities, families and businesses can rely on—rain or shine. The list goes on and on.

This year, the Baltimore Federal Executive Board will give gold, silver and bronze awards for excellence in job performance to 217 Maryland Federal employees and military servicemembers in nineteen different job excellence categories. These awards are one effort to showcase the remarkable work that is going on in our Federal sector and I congratulate this year's outstanding class of awardees.

RECOGNIZING CAROLYN KULIG

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Kulig on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Kulig's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Carolyn Kulig decorated the library at the Easter Seals facility in Carrollton, Texas. Miss Kulig painted book shelves in lively colors and added color to the walls. She also collected books and videos through donations that will be given to low-income families that have children being treated at the facility. Her efforts will live the spirit of all that use the library at Easter Seals.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Carolyn Kulig in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl