

Initiative. This endeavor has won high praise from both federal policymakers and U.S. corporate leaders.

With globalization playing a greater role in our society, President Dynes recognized that research universities must “facilitate the free flow of ideas between borders” to create the economy and quality of life of the future. To strengthen the research capacity and the intellectual development of American students, he initiated international cooperation with institutions of higher education, as well as with business and industry, in China, India, Canada, and Mexico.

President Dynes’ foresight and leadership is evident in the launch of the first new research university of the 21st century—University of California, Merced. Likewise, his hard work was instrumental to the creation of the Governor Gray Davis Institutes for Science and Innovation. Both of these efforts will help keep California at the cutting edge of research into bioengineering, nanotechnology, next generation Internet and the many other elements of the “New Economy.”

Therefore, I rise today in tribute to my friend Robert C. Dynes—for the invaluable service he has rendered to the country and to the state of California. I would like to thank him for his leadership in the continuing search for new knowledge and commend him for his steadfast commitment to the students of California.

MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics and Reduce Organized Crime Authorization Act in order to demonstrate my support for a more proactive approach to the problems of drug addiction and trafficking, weapons smuggling, and gang violence. Only through a re-envisioning of drug policy from the ground up can our Nation make new progress in combating illegal narcotics trafficking.

I am pleased to see that the Democratic leadership and Judiciary Committee have added revolutionary and evolutionary measures to fight these crimes. No longer will this Congress fight only the effects of the drug trade. Instead, we will work alongside our Central American and Mexican allies to fight its causes as well.

I strongly feel that with the passage of the Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics and Reduce Organized Crime Authorization Act, we can begin to work alongside our southern allies to combat all levels of drug addiction and trafficking, from preventing youth involvement in these crimes to punishing those who foster them.

For example, with a new emphasis on evidence preservation, increased polygraph capabilities, and custody reform, our allies can streamline their policing efforts, allowing for a more focused campaign.

However, new enforcement capabilities are not enough. The bill’s purpose is possible only

with its inclusion of after-school programs and programs for at-risk and criminally-involved youth. Gang reeducation and training for CONADIC and other agency staff in best practices and outreach are essential to reducing demand. These programs are the harbingers of our message and the most potent enforcers of our goals.

We must no longer approach our war against illegal narcotics from a reactive standpoint, but must instead work closely with Mexican and Central American authorities to combat the spawning points of these tribulations. Through a more nuanced set of policies, our allies can begin to employ the same successful strategies in their states that we have been using here at home.

MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 6028 and the program it would authorize, Merida Initiative. I would like to thank Chairman BERMAN for his efforts to ensure that the Merida Initiative received proper Congressional input, as well as his efforts to include human rights protections. I was disheartened once again, last year, when President Bush developed the Initiative without Congressional input or any regard for the well-documented human rights abuses of the Mexican military and law enforcement. However, to address these problems successfully, it will be necessary to address the problem of drug production in Mexico and South America, to address the problem of drug consumption here in the United States, and to stem drug trafficking between the United States and our neighbors to the south. The Merida Initiative does none of these.

Time and again, research has demonstrated that illicit drug production in developing countries stems from pervasive rural poverty and lack of sustainable sources of income. H.R. 6028 falls woefully short of supporting programs that address these issues. The vast majority of authorized funds will go toward equipment and training for military and law enforcement operations; funding for prevention and development programs will come from a much smaller authorization that competes with certain law enforcement initiatives and judicial reforms.

Similarly, research teaches us that drug use in America stems from poverty, lack of access to basic needs, and other psychosocial stressors. Again, H.R. 6028 will accomplish nothing to reduce drug demand in the United States. H.R. 6028 authorizes no money for demand reduction. In fact, H.R. 6028 only requires the President to submit a report on the measures taken to intensify efforts to address our Nation’s demand-related aspects of drug trafficking.

Moreover, interdiction efforts that address exclusively the trafficking aspect of the drug problem have little effect. Most often, the consequence of such intervention is an increase

in price and slightly diminished amount of drugs in circulation, which does almost nothing to reduce demand. Enterprising drug dealers will find a way to get their product into the hands of users, and users struggling with addiction will go to extreme ends to get their fix.

More money for guns and other tools of destruction will do nothing to ease the suffering of those struggling with addiction or alleviate the social problems that compel people to produce and/or traffic drugs. For those reasons, I cannot support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILLIAM J. FOWLER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a Tennessean who has comforted and inspired thousands of people in East Tennessee.

Reverend William J. Fowler of Knoxville, Tennessee has spent the last 42 years as a Minister of the Gospel. During that time, he was a role model for his congregation and an inspiration to other ministers.

As the head of Church Street United Methodist Church since 1994, Rev. Fowler’s compassion and devotion helped grow the congregation into the thousands, and his leadership has been invaluable to the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Fowler served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Emory & Henry College, where he chaired the Religious Life Committee. He also served as a member of the Holston Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Holston Conference Ethics Committee, and he was a member of the Institutional Review Board of Bristol Regional Medical Center.

In his final sermon, Rev. Fowler urged his congregation to heed God’s call: “God can send different persons to us, and point us the way that he wants us to go.” He told his followers that his farewell does not mark the end of his service, but the continuation of God’s Ministry.

I urge my colleagues to join me as I salute Rev. William J. Fowler and wish him and his wife the best as they enter a well-deserved retirement. His calling as a reverend, friend, and leader will continue to inspire many.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the article from The Knoxville News Sentinel newspaper, which is reprinted below.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, June 7, 2008]

FAMILIAR PAIR AT CHURCH STREET UMC TO RETIRE

(By John Shearer)

Just as the landmark Church Street United Methodist Church on Henley Street has changed little in appearance in recent years, so have its worship leaders.

However, the Rev. William Fowler, who has served as senior minister for the last 14 years, and Jim Rogers, who has been the organist and choirmaster since 1979, have announced plans to retire.

Fowler, whose tenure has been considered long for a denomination with itinerant clergy, will preach his last sermon on June 8, while Rogers is leaving in late July.

The Rev. Andy Ferguson from Broad Street United Methodist in Cleveland, Tenn., will be the new senior minister, while a search is under way for Rogers' replacement.

Fowler, the son of a Methodist minister, began his career after graduation from Duke Divinity School as an assistant pastor at a church in Scotland beginning in 1968. He had come to Church Street from First United Methodist in Bristol and had no idea he would stay so long.

"The first Sunday I was overwhelmed and frightened," he said. "Hearing the organ open up on, 'Lift High the Cross,' I said, 'God, what did you get me into?' I certainly made some mistakes, but I gave all my effort to God and said I tried."

Fowler, who is building a retirement lake-side home in Kingston with his wife, Virginia, plans to stay away from a pulpit but near a pen and computer writing books. Rogers had come to Church Street from a similar position at Belle Meade United Methodist in Nashville. At Church Street, he has maintained the church's style of more traditional and formal music in an era when contemporary Christian music has become popular. "People pass a lot different styles of worship to come to this church," he said.

Rogers said the most satisfying part of his work has come not from the performances, but in practice.

"The challenge is seeing what you can get out of a group of singers," he said. "God doesn't deserve your second best."

IN MEMORY OF JOHN RODGERS
BARNES

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and memory of a true American hero, John Rodger Barnes. John was a long-time resident of Southern California and passed away at his Indian Hills home on February 15, 2008.

John attended schools in Mansfield and briefly studied law at Boston University. It was there in Mansfield that he met and married his lifelong companion, Alice T. Barnes of Brockton, Massachusetts, in 1940. The young couple began their family at their home on a small farm there in Mansfield. When World War II began, John was working at Harvard University and in 1943 he joined the U.S. Navy, later serving in the Pacific Theater with the Navy Seabees. It was there on the island of Saipan, at Leyte, and later in the Philippines that he distinguished himself in fierce battle earning several medals for valor including six Bronze Battle Stars.

He also participated in battles at Tinian, the Lingayen Gulf, Luzon and Okinawa Island and was on a ship anchored near Japan when the order to drop the first atomic bomb was issued. Following the war, John returned to his Mansfield farm until 1950 when he and Alice moved with their 5 children to Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

In 1959, John moved his family to Southern California but later joined the Chrysler Corporation as a leader in its tool and die operation. Following his retirement there he and Alice moved back to Southern California and lived at the Galleano Winery in Mira Loma until her death in 1997. The majority of his retirement was spent in Southern California

where he continued to enjoy his good health, reading many fine books, watching the birds and squirrels, and penning scores of editorial letters to several local papers.

John was survived by his children Barry, David Harding, Doreen Elizabeth, and Ellen Judith, his brothers Sam and Peter and sisters Rosalee and Margot. His son John Rodgers and siblings Clarence, Jane, David and Thomas all preceded him in death.

The success of his children and grandchildren always gave John great pride often saying that they "did well because I didn't interfere." A highly decorated combat veteran, a talented and distinguished technician and a loving and caring father, John imparted his values and virtues on his large and wonderful family, the several communities he served and the many precious lives he touched so gently. He will be truly missed by all so fortunate to have been touched by his kindness.

A TRIBUTE TO VINCENT HOSANG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vincent HoSang, CEO and President of Caribbean Food Delights, a nationally and internationally renowned wholesale trade corporation that produces Caribbean delicacies.

HoSang was born in Springfield St. James, Jamaica to Mr. and Mrs. Henry HoSang, and was the eighth child of ten. As a child, HoSang had aspirations of becoming a medical doctor but halted his studies to help his uncle manage a family grocery store. However, it was this introduction to food services that placed HoSang on the road to founding a lucrative corporation.

In February of 1968, HoSang migrated to Bronx, NY where he saved enough money to buy a fast food store known as "Kingsbridge Delight," which sold fried chicken, shrimp, ribs, and French fries. In 1980, HoSang bought "Sunrise Bakery" on Dyre Avenue; HoSang changed its name to "Royal Caribbean Bakery" and expanded the corporation into a 20,000-sq ft. wholesale trade company in Mount Vernon, NY.

In 1993, HoSang bought 73,000 sq. ft. of land property in Tappan, New York where he founded Caribbean Food Delights, which produced various Jamaican cuisines. Since then, Caribbean Food Delights has expanded to become internationally recognized and received the Forbes award on February, 5, 2007. Along with his success, HoSang finds time to give back to the communities he's belonged to. Vincent HoSang Family Foundation, founded in 2003, and it contributed \$150,000 worth of scholarship money to business students at the University of the West Indies; this is just one example of the many ways HoSang attempts to serve others.

In closing, Vincent HoSang has dedicated his life to helping others through philanthropic giving and through food services.

HONORING SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT CHAPTER 703 OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, there are few organizations whose name is synonymous with compassion, care, and community service. The American Red Cross is one of those few. Today, in my hometown of New Haven, Connecticut, South Central Connecticut Chapter 703 celebrates its 75th anniversary. Quite a remarkable milestone for this organization and our community. It is with the greatest pride that I rise today to pay tribute to this outstanding organization, its extraordinary membership, and the many invaluable contributions they have made to our community, our state, and our Nation.

Brought together by its first chairman, William Farnam, the South Central Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross was established in April 1906. The earliest records indicate that this group of volunteers were gathering supplies for Serbia as well as provisions for charitable groups throughout Greater New Haven. Shortly after our entrance into World War I, classes in home nursing were started as well as first aid programs, home services, and a corps charged with making surgical dressings. These were all volunteers—a remarkable achievement when you consider the demands brought on by the war. In fact, records from 1918 show that the Surgical Dressings department worked in an area that accommodated 1,200 workers and that in that same year, their fundraising drive included 4,000 women dressed in white, parading for the cause.

One of the greatest contributions of the South Central Connecticut Chapter was the role of one of their most distinguished members in the development and implementation of the present day statewide Blood Program. The National Red Cross pioneered the Blood Program in 1936 and during World War II the Army and Navy put out a call for donations. G. Gordon Copeland was the Chapter's assistant treasurer in 1942 and is credited with initiating the Regional Blood Program in 1950. He was chosen to represent the National Red Cross at the Centenary Congress in Geneva and served on Connecticut's Advisory Board for many years. He would certainly be proud that in Connecticut, where there are no commercial blood banks, is one of only 3 states in the Nation with an entirely free, entirely volunteer program.

In 1955, the Chapter had little chance to celebrate the purchase of the "Verdi House"—what would become their permanent home on Whitney Avenue—before the most disastrous flood in Connecticut's history came upon the State, paralyzing many communities. Always at the ready, the Chapter's offices were open 24 hours a day for 4 days and then for the following 2 weeks all personnel were on 24-hour call. Providing for 30,000 Connecticut residents, the Chapter moved 7 seaworthy boats into service, and 1,000 disaster workers faced the challenge—gathering generators, short wave radio equipment, food, clothing, water,